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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية للرأي

Volume 15, Number 4455

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, AUGUST 2-3, 1990, MUHARRAM 11-12, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

House hears report on Soviet emigres in secret session

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament convened Wednesday but went into a secret session to hear a government report on contacts undertaken by Jordan to counter the threats inherent in the massive Jewish influx to Israel. Speaker Saleman Arar announced at the outset of the session that the government had asked for a secret session from which journalists were barred. The report was expected to be read to the House by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi. The session was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Cabinet members. No immediate details were available on the government's report to the House.

Soviet plane crashes in Azerbaijan

MOSCOW (AP) — A small airliner carrying 30 people from Armenia to the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh crashed in dense fog Wednesday in Azerbaijan. Soviet news media reported. There was no immediate information on casualties or the cause of the crash. The wreckage of the Aeroflot Yakovlev-40 was discovered in the Agdam region of Azerbaijan, immediately east of Nagorno-Karabakh and its capital of Stepanakert, reported the Interfax news agency, quoting information reported to the Armenian parliament. The area is not directly on the plane's route from the Armenian capital of Yerevan to Stepanakert, but the aircraft could have been circling to enter its landing pattern.

Namibia reports coup plot

WINDHOEK (R) — Namibian Prime Minister Hage Geingob said Wednesday security forces had uncovered a plot to overthrow the government of the four-month-old African state. He said he would not disclose any details as investigations were at a sensitive stage. Namibia — focus of an international dispute for more than half a century and scene of a bloody bush war for 23 years — gained independence from South Africa on March 21 after United Nations-supervised elections. Geingob's announcement followed claims by the Namibian newspaper that 500 former members of a South African counter-insurgency unit, including Angolan rebels, have been involved in a coup plot. The paper said the plot was financed by unnamed sources in the United States and revealed by conspirators who defected to the Namibian security forces.

Sudan releases 18 trade unionists

KHARTOUM (AP) — The military government Wednesday freed 18 trade unionists who were in custody on suspicion of instigating strikes, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported. SUNA said the releases were "a good gesture from the revolution and a move to allow them to open a new page." Sudan's powerful trade and professional unions played an important role in overthrowing President Jaafar Numeiri in 1985. They were active in Sudanese politics until Omar Hassan Al Bashir dissolved them shortly after taking over in a military coup June 30, 1989. SUNA said those released included Ali Abdulla Al Simair, head of the 100,000-member Railway Workers Union. The freed men also included Mahjoub Ahmad Al Zubair, deputy chairman of the one million-strong Federation of Trade Unions.

Zhelev elected Bulgaria president

SOFIA (AP) — Zhelev Zhelev, who led Bulgaria's democratic opposition in June's free elections, was elected president Wednesday, the first non-communist to gain any leading post in Balkan nation in more than 40 years. Zhelev's election by parliament ended almost a month of political stalemate following the resignation July 6 of President Petar Mladenov, a member of the former Communist Party, now known as the Socialists.

Iraq-Kuwait talks collapse in Jeddah but will resume

JEDDAH (Agencies) — Crisis talks between Iraq and Kuwait collapsed Wednesday and Iraq said Kuwait was not serious about meeting its demands but Kuwait expressing hope that discussions would continue.

Both sides spoke of further talks. Iraq, which went reluctantly to the first session on neutral Saudi ground, insisted they would have to be in Baghdad.

Oil prices, already boosted by the dispute, jumped higher on the news and fears of an armed clash. But the border between the two neighbours remained open Wednesday afternoon and there was no sign of military movement.

The two-week crisis over oil, borders and money has been accompanied by a massive show of Iraqi strength at the border, estimated by diplomatic sources at 100,000 troops as well as hundreds of tanks and other armaments.

Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council, left the Saudi summer capital early Wednesday morning without making a statement and without holding a scheduled second round of talks with Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

In Baghdad, Deputy Prime Minister Sa'doun Hammadi said the two sides failed to reach an agreement because Iraq "did not see any seriousness by the Kuwaiti officials in tackling the major damage inflicted on Iraq due to their recent behaviour and stands against Iraq's fundamental interests."

Hammadi told the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) that the talks would continue as worked out with mediators President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

Ibrahim's abrupt departure tensed nerves in the oil-rich Gulf region as rumours shot through world oil and financial markets that Iraqi troops had invaded Kuwait or that their joint border was closed.

Oil executives said the price of oil shot up by half a dollar a barrel.

A Kuwaiti delegation member decried these reports.

In Kuwait itself, travellers arriving from Iraq said the border checkpoints on both sides were operating normally. Iraqi troops and military vehicles were sighted at areas within Iraqi territory far from the border with Kuwait, said the travellers, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"It is just not right to circulate rumours and expect us to respond," said a senior Foreign Ministry official in Kuwait.

Fahd arranged for Sheikh Saad and Ibrahim to have a short meeting after their arrival in the Saudi summer capital Tuesday, and feted both delegations at a dinner banquet.

In between, Crown Prince Abdullah brought the two sides together for two hours of talks, including a tete-a-tete between the delegation leaders.

Sources close to the conference affirmed that Iraq maintained a hardline stance.

From the start, Baghdad insisted that the Jeddah session be a protocol meeting to be followed by a working meeting in Baghdad.

The Kuwaiti delegation held extensive talks with the Saudi leadership after the departure of the Iraqis and before his own departure. Sheikh Saad issued a statement affirming his country's faith in continuing the dialogue through direct negotiations.

A Kuwaiti official said the Jeddah talks collapsed because Kuwait would not give in to Iraqi demands on territory and war loans.

Saudi mediators said the two sides had only one full meeting — the two-hour session late Tuesday.

U.S. warships in the Gulf, which played a vital role in keeping oil routes open during the Iran-Iraq war, are on high alert and the United States is holding military exercises with the United Arab Emirates, another Gulf state which attracted Iraq's wrath.

Hammadi told INA: "The two sides discussed the existing different problems between the two countries and each side presented its point of view and meetings will be held in Baghdad to continue the discussion."

Sheikh Saad told the official news agency KUNA: "I look forward to the resumption of direct meetings and negotiations in both brotherly countries to reach a solution to all issues under the Arab League Charter and in a fashion that will ensure our joint and legitimate interest."

Iraq rammed home its demands Wednesday with another scathing attack in Baghdad's official press.

The government daily Al Jumhuriya dismissed Kuwait's description of the crisis as a "summer cloud." It said the only solution was for Kuwait to change its attitude and "erase the traces of all harm and aggression which it inflicted on Iraq."

Another recent sign of improved relations was Iraq's stated readiness to coordinate its oil policy with Iraq. This was apparent at last week's Geneva meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), of which the two countries are members.

Egypt's Moussa said the Iranian-Iraqi draft was to be presented to the ministerial conference Friday "for inclusion in the final communiqué." The session is slated to end Saturday.

Other conference sources quoted Iranian delegation leader Tashkiri as speaking of "a mutually agreed wording" and a "good climate and more favourable dispositions" in Iran-Iraq dealings.

They also quoted Iraqi chief delegate Abdul Wahab as telling the ministers that Iran's response to President Hussein's peace initiative was "an encouraging sign."

The official from Israel's foreign ministry, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity, said the Soviet leader's invitation was issued verbally by the leading Soviet consular delegate in Israel, Alexei Chestakov.

The Soviet Union does not have diplomatic relations with the Jewish state, but Kremlin leaders have gradually warmed ties since stationing consular representatives in Tel Aviv three years ago.

Chestakov told Levy in a meeting Tuesday that Shevardnadze believes the Soviet Union should "give high priority to lessening tensions in the Middle East," the foreign ministry official said.

No date was set for the discussions, but it was likely the two would meet in New York City in September, when foreign ministers customarily attend the opening sessions of the U.N.

The Moroccan-born Levy, 52, holds the number two spot in Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud Bloc. He took office when Shamir's coalition was installed June 11, and his impending trip to Washington will be his first as foreign minister.

In the meeting with Chestakov, Levy urged the Soviets to quickly resume full-fledged diplomatic ties with Israel. The lack of such ties "legitimizes the Arab hostile position towards Israel," Levy was quoted as contending during the meeting.

Previously, the Soviet Union has refused to resume diplomatic ties, cut after the 1967 war, until Israel moves towards making peace with the Palestinians.

Damascus meeting expected to boost Syria-Jordan ties

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and Syria have no major outstanding problem between them and the Kingdom expects next week's meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee to proceed smoothly and pave the way for enhanced cooperation, according to a senior Jordanian official.

"The entire range of issues related to bilateral relations and cooperation will be discussed" during the meeting, to be co-chaired by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and his Syrian counterpart Mahmoud Zou'bi, the official told an informal press briefing Wednesday.

"There is no major outstanding issue, except for some Syrian dues to Jordan, mostly to Royal Jordanian (RJ) and the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and some unsettled trade bills," he said.

RJ's dues are mostly in the form of remittances of revenues from its operations in Syria while the JEA is owed by the Syrians for power purchased from the authority. No definite figure on the total Syrian debt to Jordan was immediately available.

"Of course, political issues, including the latest developments in the region, will also be discussed, but there is no specific subject singled out for special focus," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Jordan and Syria are in broad agreement over the ultimate bases on which the Middle East problems should be resolved, whether the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Lebanese civil war or the Iran-Iraq dispute, but do not necessarily see eye-to-eye on the means to arrive at such bases, observers noted.

Senior officials have repeatedly said that these disagreements were only in form and not in content and therefore do not have any bearing on bilateral relations.

There has been no clear indication that Badran would seek to pursue Jordan's efforts to mediate the Syrian-Iraqi rift during his visit to Damascus.

Badran is expected to be accompanied to the meeting by a high-level delegation including the ministers of trade and industry, water and irrigation, agriculture, planning, transport and telecommunications, tourism and labour and other senior officials.

It was not immediately known whether the foreign minister will be a member of the delegation to the meeting, which opens in the Syrian capital Saturday.

It will be the second visit to Damascus by Badran after assuming a new term of office as prime minister in December last year and the second meeting of the higher committee since then. Zou'bi visited Amman to co-chair the January meeting of the committee, which meets twice every year alternatively in the two capitals.

Badran visited Damascus later carrying a message from His Majesty King Hussein to President Hafez Al Assad.

Another issue expected to be discussed at the Damascus meeting is the fate of the Syrian-Jordanian Bank, a joint venture which is now believed to be merged with the Jordan Gulf Bank, economists said. The Syrian-Jordanian Bank, established in 1980, has equal equities from both sides, and it mostly esters to Syrian-Jordanian joint ventures including the Syrian-Jordanian Land Transport Company and the Syrian-Jordanian Industries Company.

The bank has not exactly been able to achieve its objectives due to several reasons, and it seems almost decided that it would be merged with the Jordan Gulf Bank," said an economist. "But any such move should have Syrian agreement."

The official rejected suggestions that border security issues could be one of major topics for discussions at the Damascus meeting in light of several infiltration attempts across the border by armed guerrillas since late last year.

"It is not a subject for any special discussion," said the official. "All bordering states have these problems and it is only a matter of routine," he said.

The latest infiltration attempt was reported in the fourth week of July when security forces said they had shot dead four armed guerrillas who crossed over to Jordanian territory. Papers found on them said they belonged to a dissident Palestinian group sources said, leading to speculation that they could have been planning attacks across Jordan's demarcation line with Israel.

In reply to a question, the official said he had no information to indicate that arms carried by a group of 15 Jordanians and Egyptians arrested near Karak last month were intended for any specific group in Egypt. "We believe that it was a simple arms smuggling operation. Security forces do not have any information that the arms were intended for any particular group," he said.

Port-of-Spain revolt is over

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) — Muslim militants who held 40 hostages including top government officials for five days surrendered Wednesday and began freeing their captives, a government spokesman and state radio said.

Hostages started leaving the government television station at midday and boarding an army bus, state radio said. The live broadcast said 14 of the 25 hostages in the building had been freed by 2:05 p.m.

Government spokesman Gregory Shaw said the freeing of the hostages taken at the beginning of a six-day attempt to take over the Caribbean island nation was "going to be slow."

Those taken prisoner in the attempted coup included the prime minister, Arthur N.R. Robinson, who was freed Tuesday after offering to step down, to call new elections and to grant the rebels amnesty. Also held were seven members of the 22-member cabinet.

Earlier Wednesday, the leader of the militants, Yasin Abu Bakr, said in a radio interview that an accord had been reached to end the standoff and the prisoners would soon be freed.

Wednesday he was vacationing in a location other than Moscow. He would not say where.

Diplomatic sources in Pakistan said Wednesday night that Najibullah's family had accompanied him to the Soviet Union.

Najibullah's family usually does not travel abroad with him, and sources said they may have made the trip for security reasons.

But they added the differing explanations given by Kabul and Moscow for the trip indicated something was happening.

Baker told reporters Wednesday he and Shevardnadze devoted their first meeting to scheduling, economic issues and arms control. He declined to provide details.

Baker travels to Moscow on Sept. 12 for talks on German unification and will meet Shevardnadze again then. They also will meet in the United States later in September or early October for more talks and to attend a session of the U.N. General Assembly in New York.

Shevardnadze told reporters he and Baker would work on plans for a third summit between Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush. Shevardnadze said he and Baker would try to set a date for the session, to be held in Moscow.

Israel ays guerrilla boat sunk

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An Israeli navy patrol attacked and sank a guerrilla boat in southern Lebanon Wednesday, killing the two men aboard, the army command said.

"A navy Dabour patrol destroyed a rubber guerrilla boat killing the two guerrillas aboard," an army communiqué said.

"There was no injury to the Israeli patrol."

The gunboat force killed the two men, 15 kilometres north of Israel's border. They were heading south and were about to enter waters off Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon, the army spokesman added.

Israel's navy routinely patrols the Lebanese coast to thwart Palestinian seaborne attacks on the Jewish state. The navy has killed seven Arabs in what it said were three attempted sea raids from Lebanon this year.

The last attempt was in June when Israel sank a speedboat off South Lebanon, killing two Palestinians. Military sources said that in that clash the guerrillas fired on the naval patrol with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades.

Responsibility for that attack was claimed by a Lebanese group, a traditional supporter of the Palestinians in Lebanon.

There was no claim of responsibility for Wednesday's aborted attack.

Qaddoumi slams U.S. policy; Levy to seek Baker guarantee

CAIRO (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sharply criticised the United States Wednesday, accusing it of insincerity in Middle East peace efforts and of aiding Israel by deliberately playing for time.

"The United States of America adopts or offers (peace) proposals hoping to gain time and avoid entering international, Arab or Palestinian initiatives," said Farouk Qaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department.

Qaddoumi, effectively the Palestinian foreign minister, told a ministerial meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Cairo that Washington was no longer capable of achieving peace between Arabs and Israelis.

In a rebuff to Egypt, Qaddoumi criticised U.S. Secretary of State James Baker for his plan to bring the two sides together for talks on the future of the Israeli-occupied territories.

The PLO attack on the U.S. continued with reports that Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy will seek U.S. commitments to shut the PLO of any Israeli-Palestinian peace talks when he visits Washington next week.

"One of the ideas he will suggest is a written commitment from the United States on no participation of the PLO, no Israel-PLO dialogue and no Palestinian state," an official said.

Levy's visit comes at a time of uneasy relations between Israel and its main ally Washington, which is frustrated by Israeli conditions stalling peace talks with Palestinians.

The Israeli foreign minister will meet Baker, who angered Israeli leaders in June when he said they should call Washington when they were serious about peace.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs John Kelly said Tuesday that Baker wanted clarification on which Palestinians Israel would accept at such talks.

In what appeared a threat to end U.S. mediation in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Kelly said the United States would decide if Israel's response "provides a basis on which to proceed."

Baker has asked Israel if it would consider Palestinian delegates on a name-by-name basis and if expelled Palestinians and Jerusalem Palestinians could participate.

Levy was a leading opponent of the proposed peace talks in the last government.

Qaddoumi told the Cairo conference Wednesday that "Baker's plan served Israel's interests but Israel still refused it."

In recent weeks Cairo's state-owned daily newspapers have criticised PLO leader Yasser Arafat over remarks he is reported to have made about Egypt's close ties with Washington. Cairo is the

biggest recipient of U.S. aid after Israel.

On Tuesday, leaders of the Palestinian uprising denounced Egypt as a U.S. puppet playing a hostile role at Washington's behest.

Qaddoumi has long been known for his opposition to Egypt's ties with the Jewish state and has not visited Cairo in an official capacity since the 1979 treaty.

He said the PLO had been receptive to the offer last May by right-wing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to hold local elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shamir had made the offer, Qaddoumi said, for the sake of appearances and to gain time in which to quell the intifada.

But, he added, the PLO "did not find a listening ear on the part of either Israel or the United States."

On the U.S. decision to suspend its dialogue with the PLO over its refusal to condemn a May 30 guerrilla raid on Israel, Qaddoumi said the talks had dealt with administrative matters, not the core of the problem.

Qaddoumi also condemned Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel, saying Israel was trying to use the influx to oust Palestinians from their homes.

The four-day OIC meeting ends Saturday.

Shevardnadze expects to solve Afghan issue

IRKUTSK (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said Wednesday he expects a breakthrough towards ending the 11-year-old Afghan civil war during his talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

"We will be able to help solve the Afghanistan question," Shevardnadze told reporters before his first meeting with Baker, in an official guest house in this eastern Siberian city.

He did not elaborate but a Soviet source close to the talks said the two planned Wednesday night to begin discussing Afghanistan. But the source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said no breakthroughs were expected on Afghanistan before Baker leaves for Mongolia Thursday.

Since 1979, U.S.-backed rebels have battled first Soviet troops and then Soviet-supported Afghan forces in a war that has left more than 1.5 million people dead, including 13,000 Soviet troops, and left millions more homeless.

Afghan President Najibullah has been unable to bring the U.S.-backed rebels fighting his government to the bargaining table and Washington has been pressing for him to step down.

Najibullah flew to Moscow Sunday for what Soviet officials said was medical care, but Shevardnadze told reporters

Wednesday he was vacationing in a location other than Moscow. He would not say where.

Diplomatic sources in Pakistan said Wednesday night that Najibullah's family had accompanied him to the Soviet Union.

Najibullah's family usually does not travel abroad with him, and sources said they may have made the trip for security reasons.

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Fateh attacks rival Hizbollah-aided group

SIDON (Agencies) — Fateh guerrillas clashed with an Iranian-backed breakaway Palestinian faction in the 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp after crushing its nearby main base in a lightning assault Wednesday.

Police said at least six guerrillas were killed and 30 wounded in the confrontation that began at 7 a.m. (0400 GMT) with a Fateh crackdown on followers of renegade Mayor Jamal Suleiman.

The fighting spread to 'Ain Al Hilweh, the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon, after Fateh guerrillas crushed Suleiman's main base in Jabal Al Haleeb on the camp's eastern edge in a three-pronged attack.

Suleiman, 35, and about 30 fighters from his 150 followers escaped the attack on the base and took refuge at a mosque in 'Ain Al Hilweh where they were joined by other fundamentalist Palestinians.

Col. Wajih Abu Ali, commander of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (P.L.O.) military police in the Sidon region, said the fundamentalists opened fire at Fateh forces from the mosque and a nearby alley which is their stronghold in the camp.

He said Sheikh Hisham Shreidi, a cleric connected with the fundamentalist Hamas movement in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza, was supporting Suleiman in the fight against mainstream Fateh.

Witnesses in 'Ain Al Hilweh said Shreidi and a dozen other bearded clergymen were using the mosque's loudspeakers to blare calls for Jihad, or holy war, against Fateh leader and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Arafat's men, according to Abu Ali, were "responding to the shooting."

One witness, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a fierce clash was under way with automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenade launchers.

Suleiman has sided with the pro-Iranian Hizbollah in its current confrontation with the Syrian-backed Amal militia that broke out July 16.

At least 186 people have been killed and 560 wounded in the current round of Amal-Hizbollah clashes for control of South Lebanon's Iqlim Al Tuffah, southeast of 'Ain Al Hilweh.

Fateh guerrillas joined forces with Amal against Hizbollah because they fear a fundamentalist expansion would threaten PLO bases in 'Ain Al Hilweh and the nearby Mieh Mieh camp on the outskirts of Sidon.

Sidon, provincial capital of South Lebanon, is 16 kilometres northwest of Iqlim Al Tuffah.

Suleiman, who has been getting support from Hizbollah and the Sunni Muslim Islamic grouping extremist faction for the past year, fired 40 rockets on Fateh's positions in Iqlim Al Tuffah Monday, wounding at least seven guerrillas, PLO sources said.

They said Fateh guerrillas launched their three-pronged attack with grenades and machine guns against Suleiman behind heavy artillery fire, circling his 50-man garrison in Jabal Al Haleeb.



Uprising activists in action

Israeli army changes tactics

By Jack Redden
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The Israeli army killed three Palestinians in July, the lowest level in 31 months of rebellion and further evidence of a basic change in Israeli tactics.

Instead of the deepening violence many expected after the formation in June of the most hardline government in Israeli history, Defence Minister Moshe Arens has reduced confrontations and the damaging publicity they created for Israel.

"You can see streets blocked and tyres burning. It is like the early days of the intifada," Wael Al Ahmad said in the West Bank town of Jenin. "But there are strict orders for the soldiers not to fire."

Although the army officially says the changes have evolved gradually, Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank report the behaviour of the soldiers changed suddenly.

Villages where regular patrols led to violence are rarely entered. Banned Palestinian

flags are left flying. Soldiers are reluctant to shoot demonstrators, a practice condemned in two human rights reports last month.

The statistical evidence is vivid. The death-a-day toll of the first months of the revolt has suddenly plummeted.

No one has been killed in the Gaza Strip by Israeli troops since May. The three Palestinians killed by soldiers in July, from the West Bank and Arab Jerusalem, represent the lowest monthly toll since the revolt began in December 1987.

"The attitude now is that we are in control, we don't necessarily have to go out there every day," said a military source. "We can go in whenever we want."

While the effect is obvious, the goal of the new strategy is harder to assess.

Palestinians, demoralised by lack of political progress and physical hardships, say Israel hopes restraint will help break a rebellion that has fed on daily confrontations with the army.

The tactical change has caught the Palestinian lead-

ership deep in internal debate over how to revive progress towards peace talks that they see as a first step toward ending Israel's 23-year occupation.

Israel, which refused to support a U.S. proposal for talks with Palestinians, has restated its May 1989 plan for elections in the occupied territories leading to limited self-government.

If Foreign Minister David Levy goes to Washington next week without fresh plans for peace, at least he will be going against a backdrop of lower violence.

Israel has become acutely aware of the damage caused by its suppression of a revolt by Palestinian civilians armed mainly with stones — the Israeli Goliath beating up the Palestinian David.

No one is more conscious of the public relations problem than Arens, who headed the foreign ministry throughout the revolt until becoming defence minister in June.

But if a reduction in violence is not followed by political action, the problem at the heart of the struggle — what

Israel intends to do with 1.75 million Palestinians living under military occupation — will remain.

"We are in a holding operation," said a military source. "Our job is not to decide the future of the territories. Our job is to let the government of Israel negotiate from a position of strength."

Western aid workers report the underlying Palestinian anger that spontaneously erupted as a rebellion 31 months ago has not diminished.

If anything, the 683 Israeli killings of Arabs, the thousands of wounding and tens of thousands of arrests have embittered an entire generation of Palestinians who will be dominating their society for decades to come.

In the absence of political moves towards peace, the rebellion will merely continue at a lower level, periodically bubbling into extreme violence.

Security sources report there is already unease among some Israeli soldiers who believe moderation will be seen as weakness and want to return to their old tactics.

Divisions on parade for Lebanon Army Day

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's army celebrated its 45th anniversary on Wednesday but paraded its political divisions as never before in 15 years of civil war.

Army Day ceremonies were held in two separate places at orders of rival commanders, the first time this has happened.

General Emile Lahoud in West Beirut and General Michel Aoun in the east both ended their speeches with identical words: "Long live the army, long live Lebanon."

Both men are Maronite Christians but Lahoud takes orders from Elias Hrawi, the Syrian-backed president who is recognised abroad as Lebanon's legitimate head of state. Aoun refuses to acknowledge Hrawi's authority.

The army is still seen by officials and diplomats as the key to policing any eventual peace settlement.

If it was reunited, they point out, the army would easily outnumber any of the militias which have been tearing the country apart since 1975.

Army commanders kept their forces on the sidelines for much of the civil war, mainly because they feared it would break in half on sectarian lines if they tried to use it to restore order.

That eventually happened in 1984 but both factions still recognised a single commander.

Aoun, 54, was the country's top soldier in September 1988 and inherited political power in the Christian enclave because parliament was unable to elect a

president.

The interregnum lasted a year during which Aoun fought an unsuccessful "war of liberation" to force Syria's 40,000 troops out of the country.

When the presidency was finally filled, Aoun disputed the legitimacy of the election and stuck to his guns in the presidential palace. Hrawi sacked him and appointed Lahoud.

The standoff left Aoun in charge of five brigades of mostly Christian troops in the Christian enclave. Lahoud leads five brigades of mostly Muslim soldiers in the rest of Lebanon.

On paper the forces are equal. A full-strength brigade has six battalions of 500 men each, which would make 15,000 regular army troops on each side of the green line divide.

But in reality Aoun has an advantage. His units are generally up to strength, and better equipped and they got superior training from French and U.S. instructors in 1983 and 1984.

Army officers declined to give the strengths of their forces. But Western military analysts estimated that Aoun has some 14,000 men while Lahoud has between 8,000 and 10,000.

They added, however, that if was Aoun who found himself under siege. Fighting this year with a Christian ally, Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces militia, reduced the area he controls to less than a third of the Christian enclave.

Homeless Israelis stage demonstration

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — About 500 homeless Israelis marched on Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office Tuesday to protest the severe housing shortage caused by the massive influx of Soviet immigrants.

The marchers, who included scores of children and mothers pushing their toddlers in strollers, chanted slogans and carried placards accusing government policies of encouraging immigration at the expense of low-income Israeli families.

"The new immigrants get apartments, we only get promises," the demonstrators chanted, referring to housing subsidies given to the new arrivals by the government.

The housing crisis was sparked several months ago by the massive influx of Soviet Jews which has already reached about 61,000 this year and may include another 90,000 by year's end.

Many rents have doubled and tripled in Israel as a result of the \$300 monthly government rent subsidies given to the Soviet Jews, who receive it a year in advance and can pay rents in a lump sum.

This caused rental prices to skyrocket displacing young couples and disadvantaged families. Some violent protests erupted and dozens of "tent cities" were erected throughout the country.

Police backed down in a confrontation with some 60 homeless families that broke into apartments in a government-run absorption centre for new immigrants in southern Jerusalem.

"We will barricade ourselves inside and if they try to force us out, we will set the apartments on fire with our families inside," said a 36-year-old man who requested anonymity.

The father of two pointed to a mother of two who organised the break-in said negotiations with two police representatives had led to a stalemate. "They went back for further instructions, and won't try anything tonight," she said.

In the port city of Ashdod, police gave another group of squatters until noon (0900 GMT) Wednesday to vacate an absorption centre for immigrants or be forcibly removed.

Housing Minister Ariel Sharon said Tuesday there were 1,576 families living in tents, but activists say there are thousands more, living temporarily with family members.

Sharon, who has been pushing for emergency funds to build temporary housing warned the crisis might endanger the wave of immigration.

"Immigrants won't come to Israel if tens of thousands, maybe in the future hundreds of thousands, of people are roaming the streets," he said.

Construction of new apartments has been held up by political infighting, lack of funds and bureaucratic red tape.

A senior housing ministry official told army radio Tuesday that less than 600 of the 45,000 apartments currently planned by the government have been started.

UNIFIL's mandate renewed; Israeli occupation assailed

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. Security Council has renewed the mandate of United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and went out of its way to issue a statement criticising Israel's occupation of a strip of Southern Lebanon that it calls a "security zone."

Dr. Clovis Maksoud, the Arab League's U.N. representative, said he regarded the statement as a signal to Israel to comply with the resolution that set up UNIFIL in 1978 and withdraw its forces from southern Lebanon.

Otherwise, the council might take further action when the force's mandate came up for renewal in six months, he told reporters.

The council, which for the first time issued a separate statement accompanying the resolution to renew the UNIFIL mandate, said it supported efforts of the Lebanese government to extend its authority over the entire country.

Without mentioning Israel by name, council members said they were committed "to the full sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Lebanon with its internationally recognised boundaries."

"In this context, they assert that any state shall refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations," the statement said.

UNIFIL comprises 5,842 troops from nine countries — Fiji, Finland, France, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Nepal, Sweden and Norway.

Lebanon's ambassador, Khalil Makkawi, said his country had insisted a statement be issued so that "Israel could not go on ignoring the will of the international community and slowly incorporate this territory in its own."

The U.N. peacekeeping force was set up in 1978 to oversee the withdrawal of Israeli forces who invaded southern Lebanon earlier that year and to help restore the authority of the Beirut government.

The U.N. area partly overlaps the so-called "security zone" manned by Israel since 1985, when most of the Israeli troops who again invaded Lebanon in 1982 withdrew.

Israel says its presence in South Lebanon is a temporary arrangement that will remain in effect until the Beirut government is able to exercise effective authority and prevent its territory from being used to launch attacks against northern Israel.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in a recent report that the Israeli-controlled area was becoming increasingly separated from the rest of the country.

He said that prospects for keeping the area peaceful would greatly improve if Israeli forces did not operate in it. But if they insisted on doing so, it might be necessary for the Security Council to consider whether UNIFIL's role in that area should be changed.

Last week a Norwegian officer serving with UNIFIL was injured when an Israeli bulldozer pushed aside three U.N. armoured personnel carriers placed in its path.

Chad: Sudan, Libya prepare invasion

N'DJAMENA, Chad (AP) — The government Wednesday accused Libya and Sudan of assembling an army of dissidents and mercenaries to launch a "total war" against Chad rather than pursue negotiations.

A large-scale offensive would be mounted from the Sudanese province of Darfur, according to an official communiqué drafted at an emergency meeting of the cabinet and the ruling party's top leaders.

The invasion force consisted of "hundreds and hundreds of mercenaries" recruited from Sudan, Mali and Mauritania, as well as Chadian rebels, backed by hundreds of Soviet- and Brazilian-made armoured vehicles driven or airlifted into the staging area from Libya, the communiqué alleged.

It said a joint Libyan-Sudanese brigade was involved in the operation, and named the two commanders as General Tigran Adam Al Tahir of Sudan and Colonel Massoud Abdel Hafez of Libya. The communiqué accused Libya of trying to torpedo talks

aimed at resolving longstanding differences between the neighbouring countries. A one-year accord proposing efforts to find a peaceful settlement expires Aug. 31, and delegations from the two countries are to meet in Algeria in two weeks for what has been described as "last chance" negotiations.

Neither Libya nor Sudan issued any immediate response to the Chadian communiqué, drafted at a meeting of the cabinet and the executive bureau of the National Union for Independence and the Revolution, Chad's only legal political party.

Libya in the past has rejected allegations that it supports the Chadian rebel forces in Darfur.

Sudan's military government has acknowledged that fighting between Chadian government forces and rebels has spread into Sudanese territory. In May, Sudan said it was engaged in "intensive diplomatic contacts" to halt the conflict in Darfur, a sprawling desert region over which officials in Khartoum exercise little control.

Likud nearly toppled from power by default

TEL AVIV (AP) — It took an impromptu filibuster and a scurry by hall messengers to prevent Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing ruling coalition from falling Wednesday in a parliamentary vote of no confidence.

The vote was called unexpectedly by the Israeli Communist Party to protest budget cuts to basic food subsidies.

Once the motion was read and the house speaker stood up to begin the balloting, Likud legislators noticed they were a minority in the room and liable to lose.

The six-week-old coalition commands only a narrow majority in the 120-member parliament and many of its supporters were absent at that moment.

"They simply didn't notice that a vote was going to be taken so early," explained one parliamentary aide who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Hall monitors were sent running to get absent legislators from the parliament dining rooms.

Then, to delay the vote, Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai Likud got up to make an unscheduled speech in defence of his budget, witnesses said.

Once the vote was taken 10 minutes later, Shamir survived comfortably by a 63 to 48 showing with seven absent and two abstentions.

Shamir was also expected to easily defeat four other no confidence motions tabled by left-wing factions that were to come to a vote later Wednesday.

The motions are in protest of the government's handling of a housing shortage spurred by an influx of Soviet immigrants. Because of the shortage, more than 2,000 Israeli families, many evicted from apartments because of raised rents, have pitched tent camps in parks around the country in the past month.

It is the second time Shamir has faced no confidence measures since his cabinet was installed on June 11.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
16:10	Book of Adventure
16:30	News summary
16:40	Local programme
16:50	Programme review
16:55	News in Arabic
17:00	Local series
17:10	Programme review
17:20	Local programme
17:30	Arabic film
17:40	News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:45	Mollification
18:10	Des Chiffres et de lettres
18:30	La Chance aux chances
19:00	News in French
19:15	Sirocco
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varieties
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Different world
21:10	Dolphin Cove
22:00	News in English
22:30	Movie of the week

PRAYER TIMES

04:18	Fajr
05:40	(Sunrise) Duha
12:42	Dhuhr
16:22	'Asr
19:38	Maghrib
21:46	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Switish Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 634990.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622365
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771531.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Raphael Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 827981, 683326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 812925.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northerly to moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly to moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman	18 / 31
Agaba	25 / 38
Deserts	19 / 37
Jordan Valley	24 / 38

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 30, Agaba 37. Humidity readings:
Amman 27 per cent, Agaba 18 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Adel Dabboub 612177

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

11:45	Rome (RJ)
12:45	London (RJ)
13:45	Tunis, Paris (RJ)
14:45	Cairo (RJ)
15:45	Lamaca (RJ)
16:45	Agaba (RJ)
17:45	Dhahran (RJ)
18:45	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
19:45	Doha (RJ)
20:45	Baghdad (RJ)
21:45	Cairo (RJ)
22:45	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
23:45	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:00	Dammam, Paris (AF)
11:00	Baghdad (IA)
11:10	Frankfurt (LH)
12:25	Karachi (MS)
14:00	Riyadh (SV)
14:30	Muscat, Bahrain (GF)
14:50	Dubai (EK)
15:30	Bahrain (TK)

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

18:15	Riyadh (RJ)
18:30	New Delhi (RJ)
18:40	Cairo (RJ)
18:50	Karachi (RJ)
19:00	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
19:15	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
19:30	Cairo (RJ)
19:40	London (RJ)
19:50	Lamaca (RJ)
20:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
20:15	Agaba (RJ)
20:30	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
20:45	Rome (RJ)
21:00	Casablanca (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:55	Baghdad (IA)
10:30	Sanaa (LH)
11:20	Karachi (EK)
12:25	Riyadh (SV)
14:00	Bahrain, Muscat (GF)
14:30	Dubai (EK)
14:50	Bahrain (TK)

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khafid Maternity, J. Amn. 642281/6
Akhid Maternity, J. Amn. 642412/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 661714
Shamsi Hospital 661714
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musabir Hospital 667221/9
The Islamic, Abdal 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdal 666164/6
Palestine, Shamsi 771013
Al-Badri, J. Ashraf 751112/6
Army, Marja 816117/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602405/0
Athal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)98323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)91071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)98372
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)27555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)31411

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	700 / 600
Apricots	600 / 500
Bananas	500 / 450
Bonass (Mediterranean)	450 / 400
Beans	450 / 400
Cabbage	130 / 90

240 / 200
250 / 200
130 / 104
100 / 80
120 / 80
750 / 650
1100 / 900
340 / 280
280 / 220
440 / 400
90 / 50
100 / 50
200 / 150
200 / 180
450 / 360
450 / 400
650 / 550
650 / 500
200 / 150
200 / 150
280 / 220
300 / 220
180 / 140
130 / 90
120 / 60

PROGRAMME TWO

17:50	French film
18:40	News in French
19:15	Documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Dad's comedy show
21:10	Midnight Celler
22:00	News summary in Arabic
22:30	Anything more would be Greedy

PRAYER TIMES

04:18	Fajr
05:40	(Sunrise) Duha
12:42	Dhuhr
16:22	'Asr
19:38	Maghrib
21:46	Isha

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

Post offices to accept students' applications

AMMAN (J.T.) — Post offices in Jordan Thursday begin handling applications by students who want to enroll at the four Jordanian universities, a practice that has been going on for the past few years.

An official from the Post Offices and Postal Savings Corporation said that the process of applying through the post offices in Amman and various towns and cities would continue until Aug. 8.

Students pay the required fees and fill in the application forms which are later forwarded to a central pool that receives the applications and sends them to the respective universities. The universities in turn publish the names of those accepted and the different faculties they will study at.

Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammed Hamdan earlier this week announced that a total of 10,995 students would be admitted into the four universities, up from 8,000 in the past academic year. He said that this increase is found necessary in view of the present economic difficulties which prevent parents from paying the cost of educating their children abroad, and to save hard currency for the Kingdom.

In addition to the undergraduate students, more than 2,300 post-graduate students will be registered this year at the four universities: the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, Umm Al-Qura University and the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

The start of registration for university education follows the announcement by the Ministry of Education last month of the results of the Tawjihi students. They completed their secondary education and many will now apply for seats at the four state universities and the two private universities soon to open their doors in Jordan.

Hamdan said in a lecture Tuesday evening that Jordan still faces the problem of illiteracy, which now runs at the rate of 20 per cent, despite the fact that it has 987,440 male and female students at government and private schools.

He said, in the lecture delivered at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation, that the government was committed to provide compulsory education to all children aged between six and 11 years, and has allocated JD 103 million for this year's schools which number 3,728.

Hamdan noted that the Ministry of Education and the private schools in the country together employ some 42,000 men and women teachers to offer basic education to the children.

Jordan celebrates Queen Zein's birthday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Thursday marks the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother.

On this joyous occasion, the citizens of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan extend their warmest wishes and congratulations to Her Majesty and proudly remember her untiring devotion and sacrifices to the Kingdom.

Her Majesty has embodied the greatest sense of motherhood by selflessly devoting her entire life to her eldest son His Majesty King Hussein, her sons Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad and Prince Hassan, the Crown Prince, and her daughter, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma.

The Queen Mother has also contributed to the strong women's movement in Jordan, leading the way as a staunch defender of women's rights.

The Queen Mother contributes effectively to social and humanitarian services and gives particular attention to charitable organisations and voluntary in-



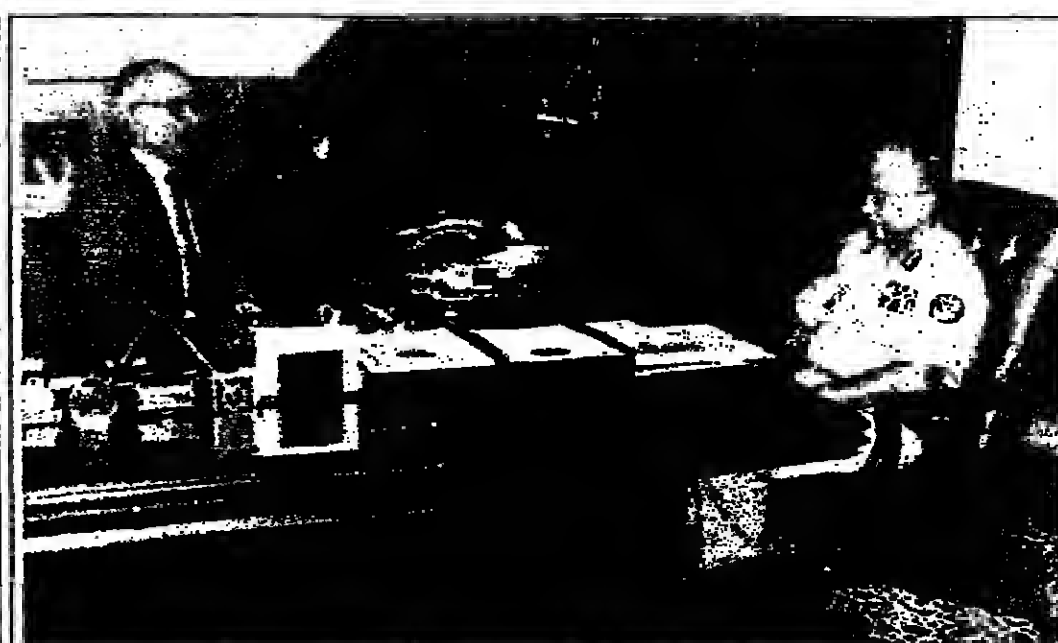
HM Queen Zein Al Sharaf

situations.

She was president of the first women's society in Jordan in 1944 and since then she spared no efforts in providing support for all voluntary and humanitarian causes in the Kingdom.

Much of the Queen Mother's attention is directed towards an orphanage in Amman named after her, providing it with care, financial assistance and backing.

May Her Majesty enjoy a pleasant birthday and the Jordanian people wish her many happy returns of the day.



KING VISITS ARMY HQ: His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces Wednesday visited the Army Headquarters where he was received by Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, his assistants, the commander of the Royal Air Force

and the Inspector General. King Hussein held a meeting with Abu Taleb and discussed with him issues concerning the Armed Forces. The King then met the commanders of the formations and senior army officers.

Jordanian pediatricians win Algerian presidential award

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two Jordanian pediatricians have won the 1990 Algerian presidential award for medicine for their joint research work on the life and development of children of pre-school age.

Dr. Saad Hijazi, professor of nutrition and child health, dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) and Dr. Mahdi Abdul Dahab, director of the National Medical Institution

(NMI) focused their attention on the physical, health, nutritional, social and psychological life of children and their aspirations at the pre-school stage.

The survey, entitled "Multi-purpose Study of a Jordanian Child," entailed conducting a survey covering 4,500 children and their families in heavily populated regions featuring various educational, cultural, and informational services available to the children in Jordan.

Dr. Hijazi told the Jordan Times that the samples of children were picked up randomly

from various parts of Jordan so as to present a clearer idea for the researchers.

The study presented ideas to the decision makers and planners about the various needs of children to help them draw up sound educational strategies and policies concerning mother and child care programme.

Algerian President Chadli Klibi presented the two winners with the award at a special ceremony held in Algiers on July 25.

The event was given prominence in all Algerian newspapers.

American delegation briefed on Middle East situation

AMMAN (Petra) — A group of American visitors to Jordan representing the U.S. national association for Arab American relations and American academicians in several American universities were briefed by a senior government official here Wednesday on the current situation in the Middle East and the Arab Nation's stand vis-a-vis initiatives to establish peace based on U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Dr. Ahmad Qatnani, head of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs, said that the current Jewish immigra-



Dr. Ahmad Qatnani, head of the Department of Palestinian Affairs at the Foreign Ministry, Wednesday briefs an American delegation on Middle East issues (Petra photo)

tion to Palestine was endangering the peace process as the present policy of the Likud government of Israel aimed at obstructing all peace efforts and creating a de facto situation in the Israeli-held Arab land.

Qatnani also spoke about Israel's repressive measures against the Arab people and its ongoing drive to evict the indigenous population from their homeland.

He also briefed the visitors on the department's responsibilities and continued assistance to the Palestinian people and on its cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in this respect.

SALE... SALE !!

On German and Italian shoes at

the Golden Step Shoes (Salamander)

Jabal Amman, end of the Rainbow Street near Rainbow Sweets

Canadian Embassy

Annual Notice to Canadian Citizens Residing in Jordan

Canadian citizens residing in Jordan are invited to register with the Canadian Embassy Consular Section if they have not already done so. Those who have been registered for a year or more, who have not recently confirmed their continued presence in Jordan, are also invited to contact the Consular Section and communicate any change of address or telephone number.

Consular registration forms may be obtained in person or in writing. The Embassy is located in the Shmeisani district and is open Sunday to Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The postal address is P.O. Box 815403. If you wish further information you may also phone 666-124.

Ambassade Du Canada

Visa annuel aux citoyens canadiens en Jordanie

Les citoyens canadiens résidant en Jordanie sont invités à s'inscrire à l'Ambassade du Canada s'ils ne l'ont pas déjà fait. Ceux qui sont inscrits depuis un an ou plus, qui n'ont pas confirmé tout récemment qu'ils résident toujours en Jordanie, sont aussi invités à communiquer avec la Section consulaire pour s'informer de tout changement d'adresse ou de téléphone.

Les formulaires d'inscription sont disponibles depuis l'Ambassade. L'Ambassade est située à Shmeisani et les heures de bureau sont de 8h00 à 16h00 du dimanche au jeudi. La boîte postale porte le N° 815403. On peut obtenir de plus amples renseignements en téléphonant au 666-124.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan, Italy plan closer cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah discussed with the Italian ambassador to Jordan Wednesday relations between Jordan and Italy, preparations under way for a meeting of the joint Jordanian-Italian Committee and several projects that will get technical aid and loans from the Italian government. Abdullah and the Italian ambassador agreed to hold extensive meetings between the two sides to reach an agreement on the agenda of the meetings of the joint committee and to define the projects that will be under discussion in the meetings. Abdullah lauded relations between the two countries and urged the Italian government to increase food aid presented to Jordan. He also urged the Italian government to continue its support for Jordan in the European Community (EC).

Mayors attend seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — Fifty mayors took part in a five-day seminar on the relationship between the municipal councils and government departments and ministries. The seminar, which was held at the University of Jordan, was organized by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment. The ministry's director general said the ministry was currently studying the prospect of holding a general conference for all municipalities in the Kingdom to discuss the municipalities' plans for the coming stages and the problems facing them.

Directors of Arab festivals meet

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the second meeting of directors of the Arab cultural festivals to start in Tunis Thursday. Director of the Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts Akram Masarweh, who will represent Jordan, said participants in the meeting will discuss ways to promote and boost cooperation and coordination between festivals held in the Arab World. The first meeting of the directors of the Arab cultural festivals was held in Amman in March 1989.

NAF aids needy in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) of Irbid Social Development Department presented about JD 40,000 to needy families in Irbid governorate in the first half of 1990. The department's Director Sultan Al-Shreideh said JD 15,395 were paid to finance 19 vocational rehabilitation projects and JD 1,515 to help five cases get medical treatment. He said financial assistance was presented to 395 cases in the field of medical insurance and 60 cases were exempted from treatment charges.

New open air market planned

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman Municipality decided to open a new open air market in Qarish Street, Saqi Al Saff area. The market will be opened every Friday from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. There are two other open air markets in Marka and in Al Abdali neighborhoods, open respectively on Sunday and Monday.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Plastic art exhibition by Radina and Ruba Haddad at the Housing Bank Complex hall.
- Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zara displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- Exhibition of computers at the Royal Cultural Centre.

POETRY RECITAL

- Arabic poetry recital by Fawad Sariak, Ghazi Al Gharabeh, Khalid Jaber, Tarek Makawi, and Mohammad Abdullah at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:30 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Requires Jordanian Woman to work as secretary. Requirements are:

1. Good command in Arabic & English
2. Computer skills is a must (IBM) in Arabic & English
3. One year experience

This position is assured through end Feb. 91 & may be extended.

Interested and qualified applicants call 656872.

Italians to restore Madaba church

MADABA (J.T.) — A two-month restoration work has started at the ancient Apostles Church in Madaba discovered in 1967 by Italian archaeologists working in Jordan.

A statement by the Department of Antiquities, which is organizing the restoration work, said that two Italian archaeologists Sergio Pezzi and Antonio Vaccaluzo, who arrived here in the past week, are undertaking the restoration programme helped by the Department of Antiquities and involving trainees at the Salt Handicrafts Training Centre which is run by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF).

The Salt Centre itself is a project set up in 1987 with the help of the Italian government.

The two Italian experts are two restorers of the Directorate of Ravenna of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Properties and have been sent to Jordan by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs upon a request by the Department of Antiquities in Amman.

The mission of the two restorers, the materials to be used as well as the air transportation from Rome to Amman of the different materials are a grant from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Jordanian government.

The restoration of the mosaic of the Apostles Church in Madaba is the first stage of a project under study which aims at establishing a mosaic school in Madaba with Italian technical assistance.

The work at the church, according to the Department of Antiquities, will take at least two months.

It said that the mosaics in the church were installed around the year 578 A.D.. Frescoes on the walls display a variety of flora and fauna and animal and human drawings.

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Cabinet names delegation to attend Interpol meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet Wednesday named a delegation to attend the 59th meeting of Interpol (International Criminal Police Organisation) due to be held in Ottawa next month.

The delegation will be led by Public Security Department (PSD) director Fadel Ali Fheid.

The Cabinet also Wednesday named a delegation to the 15th meeting of the Arab police chiefs due to be held in Ottawa following the Interpol meeting which will last 11 days.

Discussions at the Interpol meeting will cover international cooperation to deal with crime and drug trafficking operations.

The Paris-based Interpol, founded in 1923, aims at promoting and ensuring the widest possible mutual assistance between police forces within the limits of laws existing in different countries, at establishing and developing all institutions likely to contribute to the prevention and suppression of ordinary crimes, at coordinating activities of police authorities of member states in international affairs and centralise records and information regarding international criminals.

At its session Wednesday the Cabinet also announced its endorsement of a new law on tourist rent-car offices in the Kingdom, and set up a special committee chaired by the Ministry of Interior's secretary-general to work out regulations by which such offices can be licensed.

The Cabinet decided to renew the membership of Hamdi Tabbaa, Mohammad Ali Bdeir, Abdul Hadi Ma'asaa and Mousa Shihadeh at the board of the Zakat Fund (aims for the poor) which is operated by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

The extended mandate will run for one more year.

The Royal Decree said that citizens should provide documents to the Finance Ministry, approved by local authorities or mukhtar (head of district) that prove that they do not have television sets at home and be exempted from paying the JD 1 monthly.

It said the Finance Ministry would in turn request JEPSCO to cancel the JD 1 fee from the bills in question.

So far JEPSCO has been charging an extra JD 1 fee on bills for all electricity meters regardless of the subscribers.

AMMAN (J.T.) — A taxi driver from Amman was honoured Wednesday for his honesty and integrity after returning a large sum of foreign currency found in a bag left in his car by an Iraqi woman and her husband.

A statement said that Samih Ibrahim Mohammad Al Ammar was presented with two token gifts by the Public Security Department (PSD) and Radio Jordan for his honesty at a special ceremony held at the radio station.

Radio Jordan Director-General Ibrahim Shalhadeh said in a statement that the token gifts reflect the country's indebtedness to the driver who reflected a bright image about Jordan to the outside world.

Jordan Times

Tel: 667171

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

A question of responsibility

TEN YEARS ago the Ministry of Finance, facing the tedious task of collecting television fees, decided to delegate the task to the electricity company. The company, empowered by regulations set by the ministry, started collecting one dinar every month along with each electricity bill charged to subscribers. The problem, which lingered for ten years now, is that many subscribers do not own TV sets. They include shops, workshops, schools, mosques, churches, offices, many who do not own TV sets because they do not like them or afford them, and so on.

People have been complaining about this for a long time. The Ministry of Finance has just come up with new regulations.

If you are an electricity subscriber but do not own a TV set you are required to obtain a certificate signed by the mukhtar, the neighbourhood sheriff, and co-signed by the mukhtar council. Then you submit the certificate to the minister of finance, who can delegate an official to verify the authenticity of the certificate. Then you are exempt from paying JD 12 every year as TV fee. With bureaucracy already loaded with chores like this and with people fed up with queuing in front of government departments, one wonders if the savings equal the trouble. One would have hoped that the ministry came up with a more genuine compromise. Shouldn't the responsibility for proof lie on the shoulders of the authority rather than the citizen?



ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday discussed the persistent Western campaigns directed against Iraq ever since the guns along the Iranian-Iraqi front fell silent. Confronting this hostile campaign can only be done through true Arab solidarity and unity among the ranks of Arab countries which can thwart the U.S.-Israeli conspiracies and end such attacks, the paper noted. It said the American-led campaigns are not based on any solid grounds, but rather are full of deceit, distortion and falsehoods; and therefore, there can be no point of trying to counter such hostile attitudes. The only way of deterring the Israelis and the Americans, who have been busy in the past weeks to fuel the Iraqi-Kuwait dispute, is through genuine solidarity among Arab ranks in general and a speedy end of the Iraqi-Kuwait dispute, said the paper. It noted that the enemies of the Arab Nation had always found loopholes through which they penetrated the Arab ranks causing splits and rifts among the Arab states. These enemies should be denied this chance of tampering with the Arab Nation's security, and the U.S.-Israeli alliance should be halted through joint and collective Arab action, said the paper. It said all efforts should be made now to heal any lingering rifts within the Arabs in the area and to stop Western campaigns on Iraq that are designed to pave the way for an aggression. It said that the United States and Israel are both playing with fire now, and are trying their hand in an already explosive region.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily criticises the Minister of Agriculture for its arrangements concerning the transportation of its employees from and to places of work. Salah Abdul Samad notes in particular that the ministry is now charging employees for transporting them in its own buses from the ministry in Amman to the Jordan Valley where they work but does not charge any of its senior employees whom, he says, use small cars owned by the ministry to transport them from and to their homes in Amman, not far from the ministry building. The writer notes that those being transported free are senior officials who can afford to pay for their transportation, unlike the workers and the junior officials whose income does not allow any payments for such a service. Transporting these workers from and to the Jordan Valley is done to ensure that the ministry's work is done on time; and therefore, nothing should be done to impede the process, says Abdul Samad. He notes that a good number of other government departments have special arrangements for transporting their employees without charging them anything; and despite the difficult economic conditions discontinuing such practice is not considered by any of them as an austerity measure. He calls on Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat to rescind measures requiring the workers and junior officials to pay for their transportation to and from the Jordan Valley where they work for the ministry and its projects.

Al Dustour daily discussed the ongoing conference in Cairo by Islamic countries foreign ministers who have a host of topics to consider and a full agenda of deliberations. The paper said that the conference is a good chance for the Islamic nations to review the chronic issues plaguing their peoples. Numerous problems have persisted in the Islamic world ever since the creation of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) since the burning of the Al Aqsa Mosque 22 years ago; but unfortunately very little has been done to deal with issues troubling the Muslim people, said the paper. Today it said these problems have deepened and become further complicated, requiring speedy action and serious endeavours. It noted that the occupation of the holy places in Palestine and the Jewish immigration to the holy land from Eastern Europe should indeed acquire the attention of the foreign ministers and their governments.

Increase in oil prices now is in Kuwait's future interest

By Shawkat Hammond

OPEC's member countries have signed a new agreement to raise both the benchmark price to \$21 a barrel and the total output ceiling to 22.5 million barrels a day. The hard-won agreement came after six months of declines in oil prices and overproduction by OPEC members. The benchmark dropped from a high of about \$20.5 a barrel in early January of 1990 to a recent low of \$13.60 a barrel. The drop has been attributed to lower than expected demand for oil in the first quarter of this year, as well as to the overproduction by OPEC. The organisation's total output reached as high as 24 million barrels, compared to an average demand for its oil of about 22 million barrels. The difference was added to the oil inventories. Since the beginning of this year, world oil inventories have increased by 184 million barrels. In the United States, private inventories stood at 385 million barrels, the largest buildup in eight years, representing a 53 million barrel increase over last year.

OPEC watchers have attributed the oil surplus to overproduction by Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. The UAE's output reached as high as 2.1 million barrels, compared to an assigned quota of about 1.1 million barrels.

Kuwait's output also passed 2 million barrels a day compared to an increased quota of 1.5 million barrels.

The first question is: What has motivated Kuwait to exceed its quota during the last four years despite strong opposition from fellow member countries? One reason is that Kuwait's estimates of short term demand for OPEC oil have been higher than those of other member countries including Saudi Arabia. Some of the time during those four years, its estimates have been vindicated; other times they were just plain wrong. However, it is difficult to estimate short-run demands for strategic commodities because of their sensitivities to random events. Another reason is that Kuwait differs with some OPEC countries on the dominant factors that determine members' quotas. While population size and domestic absorptive capacity are given greater weights by other members, past production levels (or productive capacity) and the size of the proven reserves figure high on Kuwait's list. Its current oil reserves exceed 100 billion barrels, placing it second (or probably third) after Saudi Arabia (and Iraq). Its current quota, however, is less than half its productive capacity, much lower than that of any other OPEC member, including Saudi Arabia.

A fourth reason is that Kuwait's \$85 billion investments in the industrialised countries depend on the health of those countries' economies. Higher inflation due to higher oil prices will dilute the value of those investments. Kuwait's huge oil reserves, coupled with its nondiversified oil-based economy, and its foreign investments have given it a social preference function that favors relatively low oil prices. Among OPEC countries, only Saudi Arabia whose reserves exceed 250 billion barrels, has a similar social preference function.

The last, and certainly not the least, reason is Kuwait's national security. Revenues from oil exports had fueled the Iraq-Iran war for eight years. Since late 1986, the sixth year of that war, Kuwait seems to have favoured low oil prices to stabilise the region.

The second question is: Does exceeding the quota to keep the oil price below \$18 a barrel serve Kuwait's future interest? The answer is No, on both economic and political grounds. Even if it were yes, the market forces will push OPEC's benchmark price to about \$18 a barrel in the next 3-4 months when the demand for OPEC's oil increases to about 23 million barrels. This increase in demand covers any extra half million barrels produced by Kuwait now. The

market will also become tighter if the UAE abides by its new quota of 1.5 million barrels. This should take 200,000-300,000 barrels off the market.

This situation resembles the attempt by the FED's chairman Alan Greenspan to lower interest rates at the end of December 1989. The market snapped back and interest rates turned up instead of down.

The encroachment of demand over productive capacity will push OPEC production to maximum sustainable capacity within the next three years. There is wide agreement among oil specialists that demand for oil will rise at 2-2.5 per cent annually during this decade. This means that OPEC's production will reach 26-27 million barrels a day in the year 1993/94. Barring any significant additions to capacity during this period, OPEC's excess capacity will decline to around one million barrels a day by that year. This should set the stage for the small producers (e.g. Libya, Nigeria, Algeria, etc.) and not Kuwait or the UAE to spearhead changes in oil prices.

The third question is: Is a \$25 price today in OPEC's future interest and is it feasible in the first place? The answer is NO. Imposing such a high target today or even next year will make things much more difficult for OPEC in the fu-

ture. It is not likely that the price will stick for one simple reason. As indicated before, overproduction has resulted in an increase of 184 million barrels in world oil inventories since the beginning of the year. The estimated demand for OPEC oil in the third quarter of 1990 is 21.7 million barrels a day, which will continue to increase the oil inventory buildup, with the new ceiling of 22.5 million barrels a day. At the end of the fourth quarter, demand is projected at 23 million barrels a day, it 22.5 million barrels a day, it will take the market several months to absorb this large inventory buildup. Moreover, if the United States experiences a recession in 1991, as the odds are rising that it will with the stubborn service inflation, maintaining just \$18 a barrel will become really challenging. The latest data have shown a much weaker economy than most economists expected. The growth rate of GNP for the second quarter of this year was 1.2 per cent.

The fourth question is: Is 21 a barrel benchmark sustainable? The answer is that it depends. It requires very strict discipline on the part of every OPEC member to stick to its assigned quota. This depends on the development of the

on-going negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait, in which the oil price is used as an important bargaining chip. It necessitates that the projected increase in demand for OPEC oil to 23 million barrels during the fourth quarter of this year materialise. It will need a great deal of luck that the much feared recession in the United States does not take place in 1991.

An early clue on this price was flashed out by the stock market on the day OPEC signed its new 22.5 million barrel agreement. Being more efficient in incorporating new information and in reflecting the collective forecast of investors than the commodity market, the stock market as represented by oil index of the stocks of the oil companies turned south after the announcement of the agreement. The ratio of oil stocks to oil futures also declined.

The \$25 a barrel price should be a target in 1992 just before the projected jump in price materialises in 1993/94. For now, a benchmark price in the lower range of \$10-20 is more achievable, more compatible with the 22.5 million barrel ceiling, more sustainable and more promising than another in the upper end of this range.

The writer is associate professor of economics at Drexel University in Philadelphia. He is also an adviser to Jordan's Ministry of Energy. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Bush inherits Reagan's thorny 'Star Wars'

By Carol Giacomo Reuter

WASHINGTON — "Star Wars," America's vision of a leakproof shield to protect it from Soviet missiles, was once a key superpower stumbling block. With warmer relations, the controversy has been defused but problems may lurk ahead. Since the Kremlin last September dropped its insistence on linking a strategic nuclear agreement to curbs on star wars — opposed by Moscow ever since then-President Ronald Reagan unveiled the multi-billion-dollar programme in 1983 — the issue has not figured prominently in top-level U.S.-Soviet talks.

"It was once presented by the Soviets as a show stopper, but now it has declined to being a minor factor" in the superpower relationship, said Military Analyst Edward Luttwak, referring to star wars — officially the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

Current U.S.-Soviet relations are focused on cooperative ventures such as remaking Europe and reaching arms control accords this year on reducing strategic, or long-range, nuclear arms (START) and conventional forces.

Meanwhile, Moscow is struggling with internal crises and Washington is coming to terms with a federal budget deficit and neither has money for extravagant military investments.

As a result, a START treaty is nearing completion and could be given a final impetus at a summit between Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev later this year. It would then be signed when the two leaders meet next summer in Moscow.

But trouble may be looming on the horizon and SDI — Reagan's vision of a leakproof space and ground-based shield to guard America against missiles from the

country he called the "evil empire" — may again surface as a contentious issue.

A U.S.-Soviet space defence pact, being negotiated quietly in Geneva, is still years away. Moscow remains opposed to the star wars concept and Bush may be in for trouble with the U.S. Congress over his plan to decide within two years whether to deploy a first phase of SDI.

He could then face a crisis. Moscow has threatened to pull out of the START treaty if Bush authorises and SDI test that exceeds the limits of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty, which allowed research but not deployment of nationwide defence systems.

But Bush has not made star wars a touchstone of his tenure and one of his key aides, National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, is known as a star wars sceptic. Many experts doubt its scientific feasibility.

Bush did, however, appoint as the programme's new director a strong SDI advocate, former arms negotiator Henry Cooper. Regardless of what may be Bush's intentions, Congress is taking aim at star wars. After several permissive years, the legislators have tightened spending and this year they may curb the programme even more.

Cost estimates have skyrocketed to \$400 billion — a price the U.S. Congress is increasingly unwilling to pay. So far, \$20 billion has been spent.

Against this backdrop, U.S. and Soviet negotiators continue to work on the defence in space treaty in Geneva. But there has been little progress and one senior official said there was no pressure to achieve a pact soon. "We are still at odds on many things," he said.

Some U.S. officials see signs

Moscow is softening and will eventually accept a shift from offensive to defensive systems.

But one congressional arm expert insisted: "Soviet opposition to SDI is absolutely adamant."

Moscow conducts its own research into ballistic missile defence. The Arms Control Association, a private research group in Washington, says the programme is active and well-funded but lags substantially behind U.S. efforts and offers no proof Moscow would abandon the ABM pact.

In the United States, extensive SDI research continues but it has shifted to more modest goals, protecting military targets instead of people, and to well-understood technologies, such as interceptor rockets instead of lasers and particle beams.

Arms control advocates argue that if the ABM treaty is scrapped, a dangerous race between defensive and offensive systems will ensue. For 40 years, the superpowers relied on offensive arms for deterrence and a shift to defensive systems would have a profound impact.

'Love of liberty brought us here'

By Michael Goldsmith The Associated Press

MONROVIA, Liberia — This West African city was once a lively capital, a buzzing hive of business activity. Lebanese and Indian traders mixed with American and European technicians in its once-bustling streets.

Now those streets are deserted by civilians and are the battlegrounds of rebels and government troops.

Crocodile-infested mangrove swamps have always limited access to Monrovia, which is home to half a million people, one-fifth of Liberia's population.

Now the swamps are an ally of embattled President Samuel Doe as he struggles to hold off the rebels besieging his capital.

The insurgents made consistent headway for seven months and closed in on Monrovia several weeks ago. However — contrary to predictions of Western governments who expected his speedy fall — Doe has held on, holed up in a beachfront fortress.

But the civil war, accompanied by bloody tribal conflict, is a bitter irony in a nation whose very existence was meant to be a celebration of freedom.

Liberia was founded in 1847 as black Africa's first independent republic, created by freed Amer-

ican slaves who were brought back to the coast of West Africa by humanitarian societies.

But the newcomers were cut off from their African roots by generations of slavery, and had no region or tribe would recognise them.

Even Liberia's state motto — "the love of liberty brought us here" — refers to the freed slaves and their descendants, and ignores the very existence of 90 per cent of its population.

With the arrival of the "Americo-Liberians," a deal was struck with local chiefs for land where they could settle. The newcomers dominated the new nation, while the African tribes living in the interior were virtually forgotten in their own homeland.

Over the years, the social, cultural and economic gap between the local tribes and the Americo-Liberians widened.

In 1980, however, a group of non-commissioned officers from the remote inland Krahn tribe staged a coup. They killed President William R. Tolbert and for the first time established a government of Liberians without any American links.

Master Sgt. Doe, leader of the tribal rebellion, was initially hailed as a liberator. But he ruled his country like a tribal chief. Members of his Krahn tribe, and

their allies, the Mandingos, were given special advantages.

On several occasions, opponents — usually traditional tribal enemies — tried to overthrow Doe. Hundreds were killed.

Charles Taylor, descendant of Americo-Liberians and Africans, launched an invasion from neighbouring Ivory Coast on Dec. 24, 1989.

Doe's acting Information Minister, Paul Allen "Wee," remained defiant in the face of rebel gains.

"As long as the capital and the head of the nation have not been captured, Taylor has not won the war," Wee said.

Doe may have been helped by the fact that the rebels are not united.

While Taylor's forces were blocked on the eastern outskirts of the capital, a rival rebel leader, Prince Johnson, fought his way into the city.

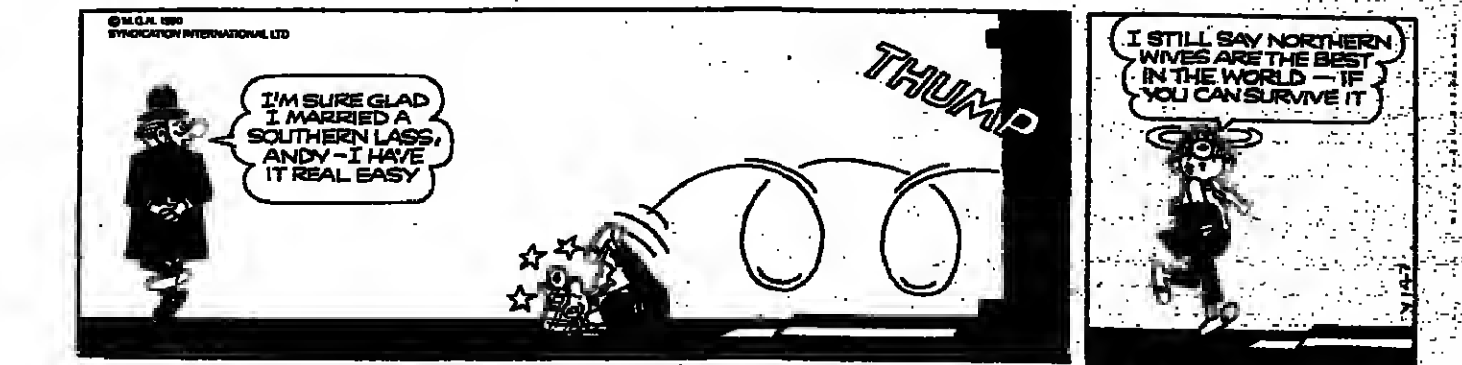
Johnson is the son of a Ghanaian and a former army lieutenant, but little is known about him. But he has quarrelled with Taylor, who has reportedly threatened to kill him.

So even as the rebels fight to topple Doe, the Taylor-Johnson rivalry sets the stage for another clash between Americo-Liberians and African peoples.

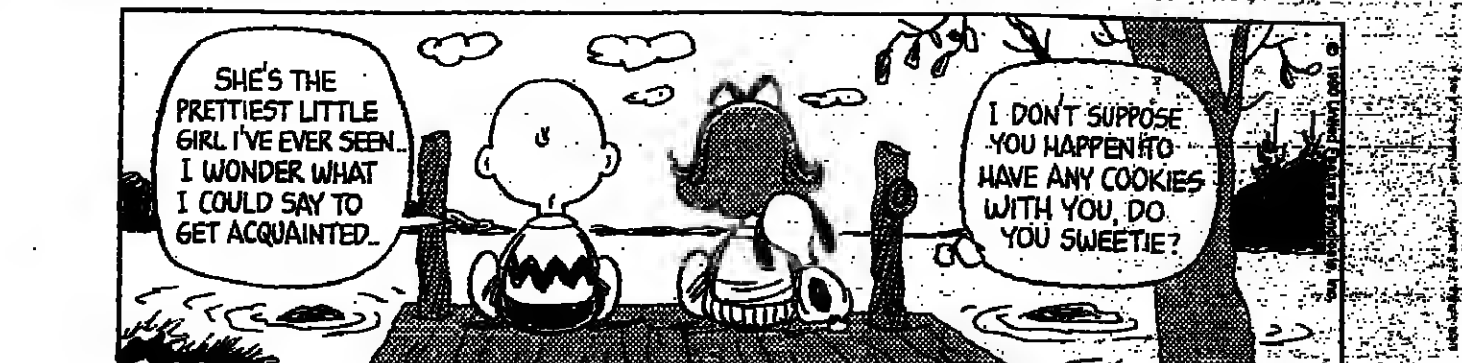
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



LETTERS

To the Editor:

I thank you for publishing my interview in your esteemed paper dated July 22, 1990. I, however, write to you to point out a very serious mistake that has somehow crept in. The last sentence in the last but one paragraph gives an impression that I gave the estimated population of Qadianis in Pakistan, which is not true. Again, this "estimate" may create a false impression that a population, more than that of Amman, has accepted that blasphemy of their belief. The fact is that the population of Qadianis may not be more than 400,000 (4 million) at all, as they are given one seat in the national assembly and that is meant for 300,000 population. I hope you will bring out the correction conspicuously.

Yours sincerely,

Gul Mohammad Khan
Chief Islamic Justice of Pakistan.

Jordan Times WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday

Aug. 2, 1990 A

Intifada revives Palestinian art

Palestinian artists struggle to preserve identity

By Mariam M. Shalabi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Art is often, if not always, a reflection of the realities in which an artist lives, physically and psychologically. Thus art and artistic creations in the occupied Palestine have reflected the realities of life under occupation since Israel began its several stages of occupation more than four decades ago.

Despite tremendous attempts to impede the continued artistic expression of the Arabs in West Bank and Gaza Strip, art forms have grown and expanded since the popular uprising of the Palestinians under occupation began almost three years ago.

While the changes and development of the different aspects of life during the intifada have been documented to some degree, the effect on Palestinian art in the West Bank and Gaza has not received much attention and while most of the population in the occupied Arab territories was boycotting Israeli-made goods and establishing substitute industries, artists were creating new art materials with which they documented the new phase in their own experience.

Prior to the intifada, almost all art materials were imported or bought from

Israel. Today art materials are "made in the West Bank" or "made in Gaza." Paints from plants and herbs are used by some artists to replace paint tubes. Hay, clay and leather have given canvases of leather or burlap a new dimension.

Two Palestinian artists, based in Ramallah, spoke to the Jordan Times during a recent visit to Amman about art under occupation since 1967 in the West Bank and Gaza.

Artists living in an occupied land, like many artists all over the world, have had a very difficult time making a living through their paintings, ceramic sculptures or their artistic creations.

While Zionists founded their first independent arts school in Palestine in 1905, an educational institution of fine arts is yet to be founded by Palestinians living under occupation.

With the exception of one prominent Palestinian artist, very few Palestinians in the occupied territories have had the chance, or have wanted, to study at Israeli schools, and thus almost all artists studied art in Arab countries such as Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq.

As a result, the "schools of art" which influenced Palestinian artists are basically a kaleidoscope of the different

techniques and themes taught in the different Arab countries.

"Regardless of where we learned to use the tools of our craft, Palestinian art in the territories depicted the realities of life under occupation," says Suleiman Mansur, reflecting on the period after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Prison bars and depictions of masses of "broken" people were prevalent in the 1970's and pictures depicting a sense of humiliation, defeat and even betrayal continued into the 1980's.

Mansur, who graduated from the Bezalel Art Academy in Jerusalem in 1970, still remembers when the then 12-member Artists League held exhibitions in Nablus, Ramallah, Nazareth, Jerusalem and Gaza. "Today that is no longer possible, art exhibits are forbidden, the military governor considers that art works are a cause for political unrest," says Mansur.

In the late seventies, the Israeli military authorities began the crack down on artists by forbidding many popular poster and post card duplications of art works, and eventually confiscated original art works from galleries and artists' homes.

In 1981 the Israeli military authorities began applying a British Mandate law which stipulated that all pictures or printed materials have to be approved by the military government.

"What it meant is that, it is virtually impossible to hold exhibitions. If an artist waits for permission, it takes him years to get it," explains Tayseer Barakat, another Palestinian artist, who was on a visit to Jordan with Mansur.

"The problem with art censorship by the Israeli military authorities is that they have no art critics and no specific laws regulating the censorship procedure, so it's really up to the individual to decide what to do with a piece of art," Barakat explains.

After studying in Alexandria, Egypt, where he graduated from the College of Fine Arts in 1983, Barakat began working in Ramallah because life as an artist in his native Gaza was "too difficult."

"We exhibit in Nazareth, Um Al Fahem, Jerusalem and abroad," Barakat explains.

While only about 10 percent of the artists works are sold during their exhibitions at home, the percentage is much higher abroad.

"Once we go abroad we sell most of our works, but if any piece is not sold, we are forced to leave them behind, because we are not allowed to bring them back," says Mansur.

'Palestinian art'

The characteristics of "Palestinian art" are not always easy to define. They document traditions and conditions of life, say the artists.

"Sometimes if you use the colours that make up the Palestinian flag or an olive, a tomato or a piece of bread, some will label it 'nationalistic art,'" Mansur explains.

"Our art is not always consciously politicized, it depends on how you want to interpret it," says Mansur.

In the early 1980's depictions of villages and village life became very prevalent.

"Their is a fear of extinction, the Palestinian, artist or otherwise, wants desperately to record and preserve whatever is left of Palestine and everything distinctly Palestinian before it is destroyed," Mansur explains.

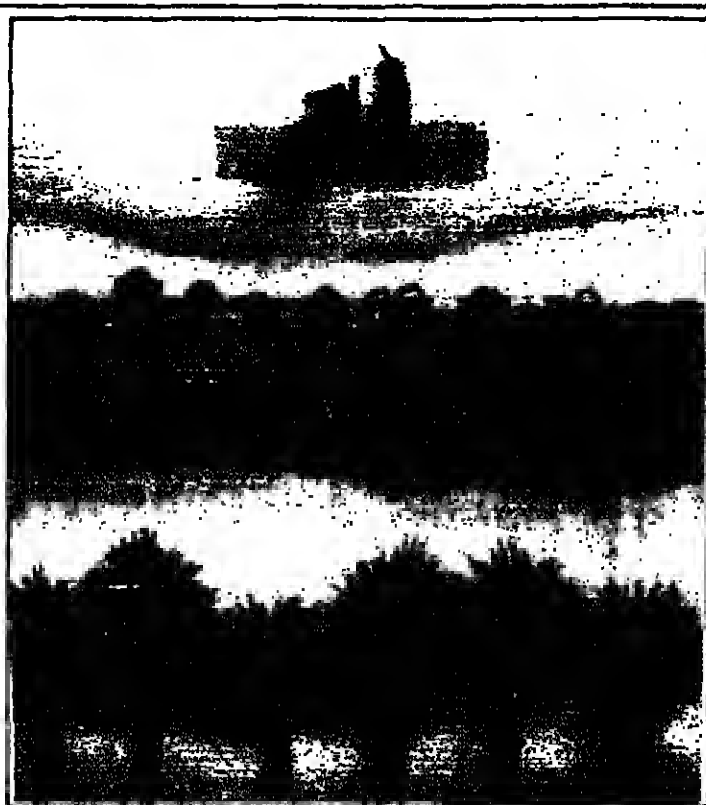
Chances are that while most people will see an oil painting of an eggplant as a painting of a vegetable, a Palestinian will see in it an "aubergine Battir," a reminder of the special eggplants once grown in the Palestinian village of Battir.

The Intifada — a new phase

While the intifada has changed all aspects of life under Israeli occupation, it has also significantly affected the world of the artists.

"The people living under occupation where subconsciously preparing for the intifada, and so were the artists," Barakat remembers. "The year before the intifada began, we felt ready for the change," he recalls.

Above and beyond becoming independent of imported art materials, depictions of life changed a great deal after the intifada began. "Before the intifada, our human subjects, were small and distant, they looked down, as if in shame or disgrace, as if in destitution. After the intifada began, faces of children,



Dream of the Past by Tayseer Barakat

women and men filled our canvases, their eyes looked straight ahead, their expressions were proud and defiant," Barakat says.

"Our canvases are no longer half empty, as they once were, they are full of faces,

faces which testify to a new phase in our long history," Barakat says.

Depicting children and women in particular, as well as stones, artists are once again recording reality of life under Israeli occupation.



Members of Underage band, (from left to right) Ghassan Wahbeh, Ayman Al Saket and Nassim Majdalawi.

Underage—more than mere music

AMMAN (J.T.) — "Underage" is a young Jordanian music band. Starting late in 1987, the band consists of Nassim Majdalawi, Ayman Al-Saket and Ghassan Wahbeh. The early "Underage" began its musical career with a song called "Little Angel", reflecting the band's compassion for suffering. The lyrics were by Wael Milbes. The song was broadcast on the music shows of Radio Jordan's English service.

Later, winds of change beat down the style of "Underage". The first Jordanian rap song, Charming, pictured the typical lifestyle of teenagers. Feelings were the next theme with Just For a Friend Like You, a song about friendship and I Still Believe, about relationship in general. An album was produced to mark the first period of "Underage", it was called: "Running Out Of Time."

The next period in Underage's musical career was the maturing phase in which the atmosphere of the band's work turned to the humane side. The song Another Dream, talked about young people's life. Inspired from the ongoing intifada, Stone Kid, is a song about the victims of wars. Then came the latest song, Show the World

You Care, which emphasised the growing dangers surrounding the planet and requiring urgent care and attention. These three songs were the opening of the new album Another Dream, Sky Is the Limit. The latest work showed the major overturn of Underage's character, from the young, classical and rebellious band to the mature and innovative one.

Underage began to face some problems, most important of which was the lack of funds, and the lack of a copyright law which makes music in Jordan practically profitless from the financial point of view.

Recording usually takes place at the best sound studios in Jordan where, nevertheless, not a single professional sound engineer can be found. This problem, together with the somehow weak local promotion makes it really tough for the band to compete with professional bands whether on an international scale or on local radio shows.

NEITHER FRIENDLY NOR VICTORIOUS: Does Anis Mansour mean anything to you? Maybe. The answer depends on whom you ask. To some Arabs, the two words are the name of a well-known Egyptian novelist and political commentator. But to others, some Jordanian journalists included, that is far from true. The man is neither Anis (which means 'friendly' in Arabic) nor Mansour (victorious), was the headline of one column in Al Ra'i Arabic daily last week. The writer of the column was one of many Jordanian writers who took "Mansour" to task for calling on the Arab League headquarters in Cairo to be thrown into the Nile following the row that erupted between Iraq and the PLO on the one hand and Egypt on the other, over the latter's absence from the Arab foreign minister's meeting in Tunis earlier this month. "I read the headline and the article, and could see your point," Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismat Meguid told the editor of Al Ra'i Mahmoud Al Kayed during the Egyptian prime minister's visit to Amman this week. "We had consistently tried to put some sense into this man's (Mansour's) head, but to no good use," added the foreign minister, smiling broadly.

DIPLOMATS ON THE MOVE: This summer is witnessing some heavy movements among Amman-based diplomats. Besides those who left and came earlier on, there are new arrivals and some who are leaving the country to other posts. Egyptian consul-general Naji Ghadrifi will go back to work for his Foreign Ministry at the section dealing with the Arab Cooperation Council. Ghadrifi says he will miss the so many friends he has made in Jordan. "I will also miss the country's climate and mild weather." His wife, Aida, says she enjoyed every moment in Amman and intends to visit with friends the couple have made here. Another diplomat, heading not home but towards Europe, is Canadian Charge d'Affaires Michael Chesson. Chesson, accompanied by Brazilian-born wife Zelia, and their five-year-old son, is moving to Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Borja Montesino, the Spanish embassy's first secretary, is leaving instead for Ottawa, Canada as counsellor of political affairs at his country's embassy there. "Amman is a very nice place for diplomats," Montesino says. "But especially for Spaniards, because of the Andalusian connection between the Arab World and Spain." He is replaced by Fernando Fernandez-Aries who comes directly from Madrid for the first assignment abroad. At the French embassy, Marion Bouveau-Parades has taken over as first secretary and press attache from Jean-Pierre Filiu who is now posted at the French Foreign Office in Paris. Mrs. Bouveau Parades is married and has a one-year-old daughter. Her husband, Emmanuel Bouveau, is a part-time engineer who, his wife says, will be shuttling between Amman and Paris dividing his time equally between the two capitals.

THINK TANKS AND WEDDING BELLS: No sooner had Sayed Yassin been appointed secretary general of the Amman-based Arab Thought Forum than he took on another important, Jordan-related, task. The Egyptian scholar on Sunday wedded Dr. Omamah Dabhan, who is professor of administration at the University of Jordan. The two had been good friends for some time, but the happy union was not possible before due to their separate — and quite distant — work places. Mr. Yassin had headed the Egyptian newspaper Al Ahram's Strategic Centre for Political Studies for many years before he was selected for the prestigious Amman job which has been occupied for the past five years by his friend and compatriot Dr. Saad Eddin Ibrahim. Dr. Ibrahim, who goes back to his old job as professor of social sciences at the American University of Cairo on Oct. 1, claims most of the credit for the ground work leading up to the happy wedding. He leaves in the comfort that his job will be done in good style — with adequate help from the Jordanian side. Mabrouk.

BUREAUCRACY AND ALL THAT JAZZ: Bureaucracy has its funny ways of doing things sometimes — if not always. An advertisement placed recently in Arabic newspapers shows Jordanian bureaucracy at its funniest. The ad announced that a stray work-horse, found on the border between Jordan and Syria, was being put to auction. The concerned authorities had sent the horse with a letter to the Mafrq Customs Department after "arresting him" in a security zone. According to government regulations, such unclaimed property should be auctioned. When the first ad in the newspapers did not attract any bidders, a second one appeared after one week. According to the ad, the buyer would have to pay in addition to about JD 50, the estimated price of the horse, the cost of the two ads, the cost of keeping the horse for almost a month, stamps and others fees. We don't know whether the stray horse was finally sold or not, but we thought that some of you might be interested to know how our bureaucracy works — or does not work.

CAMPAIGNS VS BOYCOTTS: The campaign to boycott American goods had hardly picked up momentum when a huge advertising campaign promoting American food started. Pure coincidence, says, Adnan Shaheen, the agent of American foods in Jordan, because the campaign was prearranged 8 months ago with the U.S. companies. Was he embarrassed as a Jordanian leading a campaign countering popular sentiment? No, he says. The campaign led by American companies is "pumping money into Jordan," he maintains, adding that the campaign will help employ many people at sale stands and pump money into JTV and newspapers coffers. Who says boycotts are not profitable?

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

Meet success like a gentleman and disaster like a man.
— Lord Brakenhead, English statesman (1872-1930).
The future destiny of the child is always the work of the mother.
— Napoleon Bonaparte, French general-statesman (1769-1821).
I believe in the discipline of silence and can talk for hours about it.
— George Bernard Shaw, Irish-born playwright (1856-1950).
Keep an open mind and be receptive to modern ideas.
— Jawaharlal Nehru, Indian nationalist leader (1889-1964).
The United Nations was set up not to get us to heaven, but only to save us from hell.

Abdullah Hasanat

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EXHIBIT HALL

p.s. the exhibit is open to the public from 9:30 a.m.
to 1:30 p.m. and from 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

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ORACLE

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Aug. 2

8:30 A Different World
Kim's parents fight just when she adopts "operation organisation" to upgrade her marks and her life too.

9:10 Dolphin Cove

The kids grandparents arrive and immediately vote for taking the kids back to civilisation with them, but soon discover that Kate and David have adapted to living in Australia and are doing fine after all.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie of the Week

The Haunting of Julia
Starring: Mia Farrow
Ever since Julia lost her daughter, her life ceased to be normal. Living alone she begins to imagine that she is haunted by an evil spirit with no way out of this ordeal.

Friday, Aug. 3

8:30 Didi's Comedy Show

The Policeman
Didi, this time is a traffic policeman and, his traffic controlling leads to many car-accidents and total chaos.

9:10 Midnight Caller

Wrong Side of the Wall
Blancher is an old man, who spent most of his life in prison, and wants to go back to jail because straight life is too complicated for him. Jack does his best to help him clean his record.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Anything More Would be Greedy

Peter is reinstated in the company and Felix resigns and forms a big company to compete against Peter's company.

Saturday, Aug. 4

8:30 Joint Account

David is flirting with his wife and cooking her dinner. He goes through all this trouble to convince her to lend him her fancy car, but Belinda refuses.

9:00 Encounter

Rami Khouri interviews Mahmoud Al Sharif, editor of Al Dustour Arabic daily newspaper.

9:30 Classical Music

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Hiroshima Out of Ashes
Starring: Max Von Sydow
The war is still being waged between the U.S. and Japan. The Americans single Hiroshima out for a nuclear attack and when it happens, it is a human tragedy and the damage is horrific. The war ends and history ushers into a new age.

Sunday, Aug. 5

8:30 Hey Dad

Martin discovers that Simon is not doing well at school. So he takes it out on his secretary who resigns in protest. Now Martin is in more trouble than before.

9:10 The Nuclear Age

Visions of Peace
Reagan's "Star Wars" policy speeds up America's armament programme, and Reagan refuses to cooperate with the Soviets, but all that changes when Bush and Gorbachev decide to end the arms race.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Hunter

Sen and Heir
A gang specialist in stealing sophisticated computer equipment and selling

them to the Communists. Hunter and McCall use an intra-gang murder, to unravel the whole gang network.

Monday, Aug. 6

8:30 Perfect Strangers

Blast from the Past
Marvin shows up again, this time without explosives and claims he is being hunted by a bunch of killers. In fact the whole building is under siege. Someone is definitely sick in his mind.

9:10 Murder: She Wrote

The Body Politic
Two female candidates are locked up in a fierce competition to win the state election; a murder is committed. Jessica's investigation shows that the murder is not related to the campaign competition.

10:00 News in English

10:20 The Endless Game

Alec is determined to discover the truth behind the mysterious death of "Caroline." He is in Soviet Union as a KGB spy where he meets with a KGB spy, John Miller, "Caroline's murderer." Is Alec about to unravel the mystery?

Tuesday, Aug. 7

8:30 Golden Girls

Old Friends
Old Sophia befriends an old black bummer in a public park. Sophia begins to enjoy his company everyday when suddenly he disappears mysteriously.

9:10 Heart of the High Country

Tragedy again haunts Cecil. When Calvin's mother dies, Cecil is unable to inherit her, and when Cecil's daughter returns they decide to start all over again in a

grim coal-mining town called Grevillton.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Paradise

Devil's canyon
Claire meets the young Willie and goes out with him for a ride. She gets kidnapped by Willie's father. Ethan, goes out looking for her, and it's a hard search before he finds her.

11:10 Police Squad

The Butler Did It
A classic case of kidnapping a rich couple's daughter for a ransom — a big ransom. The police investigation shows that the Butler did it.

Wednesday, Aug. 8

8:30 A Family For Joe

A Little Romance
A rich lady wants to divorce her husband and has her eyes set on "grand-papa" Joe, but the kids worry and decide to do something about losing their Joe.

9:10 Documentary

Running Out of Time
This objective documentary discusses the agricultural, industrial and economic hardships the Palestinians, in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, go through. It ends with a conclusion, a simple one — peace.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Mini Series

Challenger
This documentary sheds some light on the preparations for the "challenger" historic space flight in "NASA". The average pre-flight daily role of the astronauts, their expectations, hopes and anxiety are revealed.

The falcon of Qureish

By E. Yaghi

The people of Jordan live as a young nation that occupies an ancient land associated with the civilisations of antiquity. This is the land where prophets of God once walked and is now blessed by an ancient religious history as well as a moderate climate where soft gentle breezes are blown in from the Mediterranean Sea.

Although much of Jordan is arid and semi-desert, Jordan does possess an unparalleled contrast in landscape where among dry and stark conditions, there can be found breathtaking mountains, forests, wildflowers and, most of all, hospitable and intelligent people.

However, Jordan's most precious and valued possession is His Majesty King Hussein, who is the most remarkable and ingenious leader of all the Arab countries and is one of the most intelligent of all world leaders. King Hussein Ibn Talal is a much-loved leader and the pride of Jordan. He is certainly deserving of the title, "Falcon of Qureish."

Not long ago, Jordan witnessed the patient and respectable decorum of its leader when King Hussein held an interview on the American network, Nightline with ABC's correspondent, Forrest Sawyer. This interview gave the world the opportunity to see the King as he actually is, a man filled with great sadness for the Palestinian question, as well as a wise man knowing all the serious implications of Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine. King Hussein sat in modest politeness while his face was furrowed in sorrow and despair at the hopelessness of America's refusal to admit the time-bomb situation that exists as long as there is no dialogue for peace between Palestinians and Israelis. For quite some time, the Western World has portrayed the Arabs as a war-thirsty and trigger-happy people who welcome conflict in the Middle East. Mr. Sawyer could easily be seen as antagonistic and offensive in his interview. The King could only be seen as dignified, respectable and defending his country's position.

In spite of Mr. Sawyer's insinuations about the King's position on the Palestinian question, King Hussein repeatedly formed his answers with great thought and maintained a noble stature. It was with ponder that he expressed regret and disappointment at the stagnation of the PLO-U.S. dialogue as well as the continued atrocities against an

entire group of human beings.

While Western spectators such as Mr. Sawyer have made the Arabs look like warmongers, in truth it is the Israelis, backed by American money, weapons and moral support who are indeed the rich and fatened war lords whose continual encouragement of the immigration of Soviet Jews is an invitation to disaster, to not only the Palestinians from within, but the Jordanians from without, for where can this great influx of thousands upon thousands of Jews go except at Palestinian and Jordanian expense?

In the past twenty years, Jordan has seen outstanding progress. The Kingdom can be proud of one of the finest international airports in the world, not only in splendour, for splendour is sometimes fallible, but in efficiency and courtesy. This small Kingdom can also boast of an expanding network of new highways and roads which now link the remotest parts of the country together. There is an astounding thirst for knowledge. New schools and universities have sprung up while new private universities are underway and not just blueprints on an empty drawing board.

Medical care has vastly improved and there has been great effort to make all Jordanians more health conscious and disease preventive. The number of hospitals has increased and are manned by capable doctors and nurses.

King Hussein has wisely educated his people in all fields and has become the revered leader of an educated people. The King has also made commendable efforts to make Jordan a "flower in the desert," and is ever encouraging the growth of trees and forests.

True, there is yet much to be desired in this crossroads of ancient and modern history, as well as the hub of Eastern and Western cultures. But Jordan has much to be proud of and foremost much to be thankful for. Jordan has been led and guided by an astute and able leader, King Hussein, the Falcon of Qureish and Jordan, who is a formidable statesman respected the world over. The King is an asset and a benefit to his country. He also plays a key role in Middle Eastern affairs and in international politics. The King's interview on Nightline gave the world an opportunity to see his dedication and patience concerning the influx of Soviet Jews and his position on the Palestinian problem. The Falcon of Qureish is young Jordan's remarkable leader in an ancient land where prophets once walked.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, Aug. 2

1738 — France offers mediation to Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI in his war with Turkey.

1824 — Turkey captures island of Ipsara from Greeks.

1830 — France's King Charles X abdicates.

1928 — Italy signs 20-year treaty of friendship with Ethiopia.

1934 — Germany's President Paul von Hindenburg dies at age 87, opening way for Adolf Hitler to become dictator.

1935 — Britain passes Government of India Act, which reforms governmental system, separates Burma and Aden from India, grants provincial governments, greater self-government and creates central legislature in New Delhi.

1939 — Scientist Albert Einstein says in letter to U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt that U.S. should start atomic research programme.

1956 — Britain rejects request of federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland for status as separate state within British Commonwealth.

1963 — United States tells United Nations it will halt all sales of military equipment to South Africa because of that nation's segregation policies.

1971 — United States says it will support seating China in United Nations but will oppose expulsion of Chinese Nationalists.

1968 — Soviet military unveils its new top-secret Black-

jack bomber to U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci.

Friday, Aug. 3

1742 — British navy guarding Mediterranean prevents Neapolitans and Spaniards from taking Lombardy.

1767 — Burmese forces invade Siam (Thailand).

1803 — Second Maratha War against Sindhia of Gwalior begins when British troops open offensive.

1881 — British troops occupy Egyptian town of Suez.

1943 — Anti-Nazi demonstrations are held in Milan, Genoa and other northern Italian cities during World War II.

1956 — Gold Coast League Assembly adopts Kwame Nkrumah's resolution demanding independence from Britain.

1958 — Atomic-powered U.S. submarine Nautilus makes first undersea crossing of North Pole.

1988 — Thousands of students march through Rangoon to denounce hard-line leader Sein Lwin, who clamps indefinite martial law on the Burmese capital.

1989 — Palestinians complain to U.S. about alarming "lack of progress" in U.S.-Palestine Liberation Organisation dialogue.

Saturday, Aug. 4

1789 — French feudal system is abolished.

1870 — French, led by

Marie Macmahon, are defeated at Weissenberg, Germany, by Crown Prince Frederick in Franco-Prussian War.

1907 — French fleet bombards Casablanca following anti-foreign outbreaks.

1914 — Britain declares war on Germany. United States declares its neutrality.

1916 — Denmark sells Danish Virgin Islands to United States for \$25 million.

1922 — Fighting between Fascists and Socialists breaks out in Italian cities.

1971 — U.S. Apollo 15 spacecraft heads back to Earth after six-day mission of exploring moon.

1976 — Eighty-one people are executed in Sudan on charges they tried to overthrow the government.

1986 — Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher reluctantly offers to impose limited sanctions against South Africa.

1989 — Syrian and Falangist gunners engage in five-hour artillery battle in Lebanon.

Sunday, Aug. 5

1600 — Gowrie conspiracy in Scotland, when Lord Gowrie and his brother Alexander Ruthven seize King James VI, who subsequently is rescued.

1716 — Savoy's Prince Eugene defeats Turks at Peterwardein (petrovaradine) in Russia.

1810 — Napoleon Bona-

parte imposes tax on all colonial imports into France.

1850 — Australia Government Act grants representative governments to South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria, which is separated from New South Wales.

1858 — First trans-Atlantic cable is completed.

1884 — Cornerstone of Statue of Liberty is laid at entrance to New York Harbour.

1943 — Capture of Catania gives allied forces command of Sicilian straits off Italy during World War II.

1949 — U.S. aid to Nationalist China ceases; earthquake in Ecuador takes about 6,000 lives.

1952 — Japan resumes diplomatic relations with Nationalist China.

1962 — U.S. movie star Marilyn Monroe is found dead in bedroom of her Los Angeles, California, home.

1963 — United States, Britain and Soviet Union sign treaty outlawing nuclear tests in atmosphere, in space and under water.

1971 — Turkey opens diplomatic relations with China and breaks relations with Nationalist Chinese on Formosa.

1976 — Sudan military regime executes alleged commander and 16 other participants in abortive coup.

1988 — Iranian fighter bombers attack Iraqi troop positions near border with southwestern Khuzestan province.

By the Associated Press

Weekend Crossword

Edited by Herb Etkisson

FLOWER FLICKS

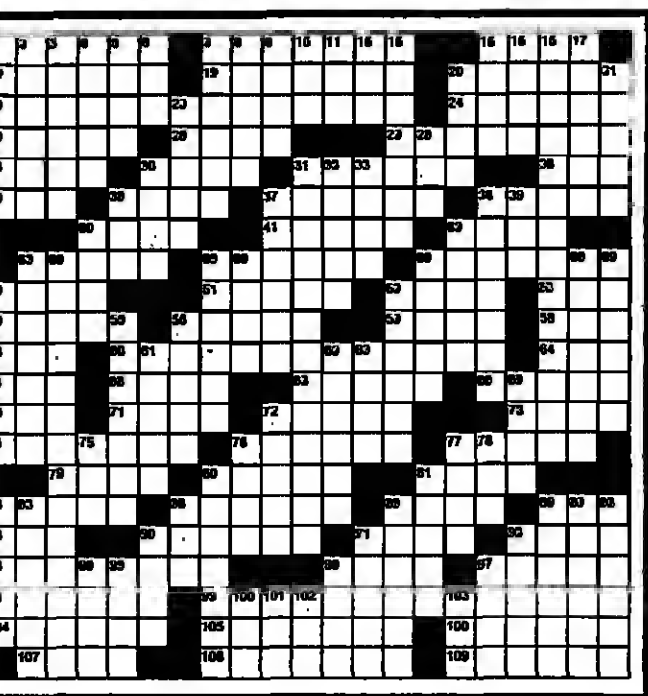
By Stanley B. Whitman

ACROSS
1 "The — the Nocturne"
7 Gaps
14 Plain in the neck
16 On city
19 Advocate of a cause
20 So, explore!
22 Loren Quinn film
23 Express
24 Wild ducks
26 Company
27 Go before
29 "Don't Tread —"
30 Male deer
31 Flowers
34 Base
35 Utter
36 God of war
37 — away time (laced)

38 Condenses
40 Ibs
41 Total opener
42 Talking bird
43 Profitably
45 Get up on the wrong side of —
47 Administer
50 Fall to the bit
51 Makes sound
52 Bye-bye
53 Unused
54 Carriages in
55 Hyde Park
56 Love of antiques
57 Gossip column
58 Crude metal
59 Caravanary
60 Megam's Oscar film

64 — Amor
65 — Avar
66 Declaim violently
67 Blunt
68 Barker's pith
70 Vane letters
71 Presentious
72 Flag officer's boat
73 Young woman
74 Threats
75 Guiltless
76 Explosion
78 Quantities abbr.
80 Room: Fr.
81 Stock exchange membership
82 Walking sticks
84 Appar gradually
85 Canvas cover

86 Overweight
89 Kind Of number
90 Movie theater
91 City
92 Stance
93 Eng. historian
96 Ingratulating
97 Macaroni or ravioli
98 Far and wide
99 Ken/Fobson
100 Movie turntable
101 Airplane wing section
102 Type of
103 Inspection
107 Being: Lat.
108 Free
109 Stripped



Last Week's Cryptograms

- Mean pelican's pouch was loaded with a fresh catch of wonderful small mussels.
- Poor Tonto surprises bank teller by asking her: "Are you the loan avenger?"
- Who but a special fairy would put out petty cash for a discarded baby tooth?
- The cook thinks making good food affects mood.

CRYPTOGRAMS

- BOLANSTER EIOLPLAS EOINPLAS
WENKLY WEAWLRLRY PEOOTEIL BREAK.
—By Lois H. Jones
- STIEUMED TONYEATERY LED AND E WOM
BIYYOU BEGLN WIT YTIQZEG ELSQORZO.
—By Barbara J. Rugg
- TANBOR CAWNB BL TACO'N FWLZRARE
YQNAF, BCOR OFFG YPR YQNB NARE GAN
LZR NLRE.
—By Gordon Miller
- SWITCH YOWL NTY: ONE UNCH EH INV
UNUNK SCNG UKURN VCHBL.
—By Ed Huddleson

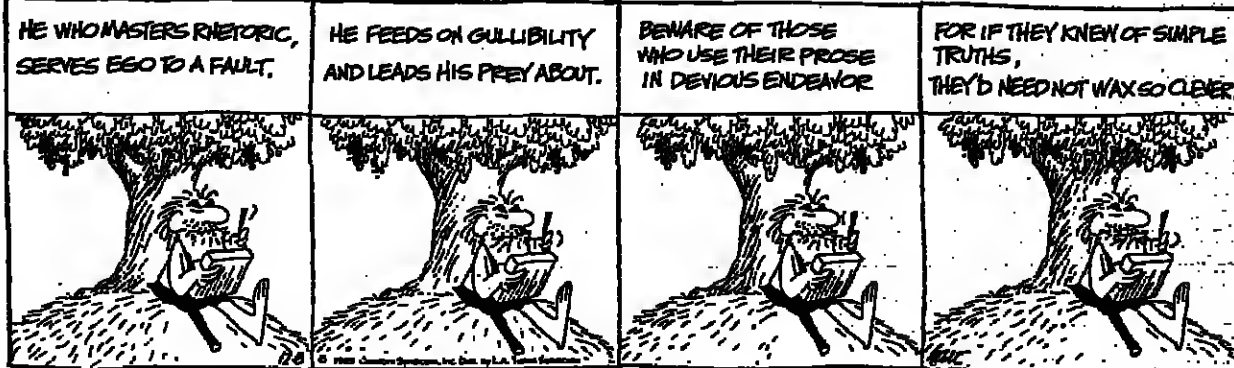
- SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE
- ACROSS
1 Lay an egg
5 Turner or Canrell
6 Small amount
11 USA part: abbr.
12 Love fondly
13 Chicago favorite
15 Showed on TV
16 Kind of party
18 Dillo
23 Rain hard
- DOWN
1 Extra weight
2 Disabled
3 Ryan or Tatum
4 Talking birds
6 Bog
7 Brainstorm
8 Average
9 Dies
10 Crew members
14 In a little while
16 Reach
17 Singer Tennille
- ACROSS
24 Pentateuch
25 Speak
26 Actress Meara
27 Tizzy
31 A Fitzgerald
32 Scatterbrain
33 Holiday TV role
37 Rest
38 Mrs. Nick
40 Carry on
41 Formal wear
43 Very fast
- DOWN
18 Family circle member
19 Sprouted
21 Small amount
25 Finally
26 Lustrious
27 Stein fillers
28 Bark shilly
31 Mr. Kazan
33 Trimming tape
34 — the line (lovely)
36 Eight: prel.

Diagramless

19 X 19, By Harold B. Conant

- ACROSS
1 Lay an egg
5 Turner or Canrell
6 Small amount
11 USA part: abbr.
12 Love fondly
13 Chicago favorite
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17 Singer Tennille

B.C.



spittin' image



WHAT DAFFY DUCK SEES IN A MIRROR



Harrison Ford feels at home in big sky country

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Just in from the big sky country of the State of Wyoming, where he lives, Harrison Ford faced a peril as hazardous as any encountered by Han Solo and Indiana Jones: the press tour.

Ford is a private man, and he approaches an interview with the zest of a glutton facing a diet. He is notorious for his verbal fencing, especially on personal matters, with interviewers.

A television interviewer recently tried to induce Ford into disclosing the sex of his unborn baby. Ford knew, but declined to say. The baby turned out to be a girl, born June 30.

Unlike some major stars, Ford feels a responsibility to the studios who pay him huge salaries for his work (upwards of \$7 million). Hence he came here for two grueling days of radio, TV and print interviews for "Presumed Innocent," the Warner Bros. film based on Scott Turow's book. Also taking part were co-stars Bonnie Bedelia, Brian Dennehy, Raul Julia and Paul Winfield and director Alan J. Pakula.

His co-workers had revealing things to say about Ford. Bedelia: "The film was the first time I had met him. He's a very interior type of person; he keeps his own counsel. I think he's a marvelous actor. In this picture he was very — soulful... he was very giving, generous, sensitive. A lovely man."

Winfield: "Harrison and I first met when we were both

under contract to Columbia Pictures (in the mid-1960s). I was brought in after the Watts riots because they needed angry young men, and I fit into that category. It was the end of the contract period, and the only friend I made was Harrison.... He was the same as he is now. Except he's a lot richer."

Pakula: "I thought of Harrison from the beginning. I wanted someone who was like everyman, who had an all-American kind of quality.... I am interested in characters who are two-sided, who can be a collection of opposites."

"Harrison is very bright. He has a sense of storytelling, especially a complicated story like this one. It's great to have someone who says, 'Have you told that?' 'Does the audience understand that?' 'Explain that to me.'"

In "Presumed Innocent," Ford portrays a married prosecutor accused of murdering a beautiful colleague (Greta Scacchi) with whom he had a flaming affair. The role calls for greater depth of feeling than Ford has displayed on the screen before. Nothing unusual, he said.

"It seems to me it's the same job over time: Trying to figure out what the ideas are and to give them expression. The more of an idea there is, the easier it is to give it life. This was a character that was extremely well-written and had great complexity. And the complexity was well-knit to the plot. It was really and easy part to play."

Ford had not read the Turow novel, and he held off



Harrison Ford as Indiana Jones

until he could see the movie script, by Frank Pierson and Pakula.

"I didn't want to prejudice my impression of the screenplay," he said. "I immediately read the book afterward. Then I worked with Alan for six or eight months before the films started."

Role is far, far removed from Ford's portrayals in the "Star Wars" and "Indiana Jones" movies. Mixing drama

and action has been part of his strategy. "It has always been my intention that that might help to keep my career alive. I like doing different kinds of films. I like facing different kinds of challenges."

Ford grew up in suburban Chicago, drifted into acting at Ripon College. After a stint in summer stock, he drove to California in 1964 with his new wife, Mary Marguardt, for a career in film. He en-

ded making more money from carpentry than acting.

Did he grow impatient in those years?

"Often," he said. "Impatient and frustrated. But when I look back on it, I really did know from the very beginning that it was the kind of job that took a long time to get into. And that the really secret of it all was just outlasting the competition and not giving up. As well as taking that

period of time to develop your craft and to mature."

Between building houses, Ford appeared in TV series and such films as "The Conversation" and "American Graffiti."

"When I went away to do 'Star Wars,' I had the feeling that I might be packing up my carpentry stuff for the last time," he recalled. "After that, I was able to work when I wanted to work."

John Cleese's success plays respectability against subversion

By Andrew Stern
Reuters

CHICAGO — "I've always had an appearance of great respectability but then I have a slightly free-wheeling mind," John Cleese said, scratching his nose with a bottle cap.

"I sort of have naughty, subversive thoughts," he said in a recent interview, narrowing his eyes in a look he refined in the 1970s during the heyday of the acclaimed six-man British comedy television series Monty Python's Flying Circus.

But he has learnt how to cash in on the contrast between his wicked mind and his businesslike appearance.

"To undermine the reputation of an accountant, it helps to look like an accountant," he said.

Cleese, 50, who lives in London, was on a recent U.S. tour to promote Video Arts, a hugely successful company based near Chicago which he co-founded and which now has a collection of some 85 business training films.

The company raked in \$25 million in revenues last year from more than 50,000 organisations that bought or rented its videotapes, which focus on the motivational and personal side of business op-

erations.

The films, in which the towering Cleese plays roles ranging from a genie with magical business advice to the hopeless manager "Rule-bound Reggie," are about more than making money, Cleese said.

"They're about treating people better so they live professional lives based on curiosity, enthusiasm and exploration rather than fear of an authoritarian boss," he said.

It may be difficult to fathom Cleese's belief in the business world after seeing him in Monty Python dressed as a banker doing a "silly walk," or as the disgruntled pet-store customer demanding a refund for a dead parrot.

He made a name for himself outside Monty Python with his 1987 film A Fish Called Wanda, a comedy that also starred Python veteran Michael Palin and American actors Jamie Lee Curtis and Kevin Kline.

He also played the madcap hotelier Basil and Fawcett in the critically acclaimed television series Fawlty Towers.

But Cleese, who before Monty Python was a schoolteacher at St. Andrews in Scotland, has a deadly serious side.

"I don't particularly enjoy

just doing comedy. It was fine up to the end of Python, but when I do something now I like it to be about a little bit more."

To that end, Cleese is collaborating with British psychologist Robin Skynner and his ex-psychiatrist on a sequel to their 1983 self-help book, Families And How to Survive Them, which sold 125,000 copies in Britain.

Lying on his back on a couch in a palatial hotel suite here, Cleese talked about their research on what keeps healthy people going.

"The funny thing about psychiatry and medicine in general is that it's based on the study of sick people rather than healthy people," Cleese said.

"Genuinely I'm interested in improving my own mental health and happiness, and as I do that... I'm extremely happy to be able to earn money passing them on with my skills as a communicator."

Some day he would like to write another movie with hefty roles for his co-stars in A Fish Called Wanda, or such Hollywood notables as American actor William Hurt.

His days as a satirist may not be over. He is considering a British television show lampooning Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government.



John Cleese and the cast of A Fish Called Wanda

"Sometimes when a government is on its last legs and

doing very badly, as ours is, a satire can help to give it the

final shove. I'd be slightly tempted," he said.

U.S. museums face threat of censorship, shrinking funds

By Michael Conlon
Reuters

CHICAGO — American museums are worried. They face threats ranging from censorship to shrinking funds — even though museum officials believe the public, which made 500 million visits last year, likes what it sees and keeps coming back.

The controversy over displays of the homo-erotic photography of the late Robert Mapplethorpe is but one example of problems facing the industry.

"The 1980s were a good decade for museums. In a lot of ways the '90s are beginning with a lot of difficult questions," said Ellsworth Brown, incoming president of the American Association of Museums.

The association, members of which include 2,300 institutions ranging from zoos to art museums, met recently in Chicago.

"Art and ideas and words and scientific inquiry have from time to time generated controversy," Brown said. "But attempts to use them as an excuse are in themselves an inexcusable effort to throttle free expression."

Brown, who heads the Chicago Historical Society, said a major concern is the fate of the National Endowment of

the Arts, which provides federal aid for the arts. The agency is up for reauthorization this year and its existence is threatened.

Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina, a conservative Republican, has called for the abolition of the endowment, which has been under attack for months over its role in funding both the travelling Mapplethorpe exhibition and works by other artists.

Last year Congress imposed a one-year ban on the funding of "obscene" art.

President George Bush, however, has called for a five-year reauthorization of the endowment, and rejected government censorship of art.

The president, Brown said, "is right where he ought to be" on the issue.

But the problems facing museums go far beyond the censorship and obscenity controversy, he said.

Property taxes, a traditional means of support for publicly funded museums, are increasingly under fire and the economy in general is "not as booming" as it had been in recent years.

Other threats, Brown said, include moves to tax the profits of museum stores and other operations as well as endowments, and the lingering effects of the 1986 tax reform act, which curbed gift-giving.

Ballerina reflects on role that made her famous

By Margaret Henry
The Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — When ballerina Cynthia Gregory talks about Swan Lake, her signature role, the white and black swans sound more like old friends than characters from a fairy tale.

Odette, the white swan, is her favourite. While other ballerinas dance the role with melancholy and pathos, Gregory depicts strength with vulnerability, triumph instead of gloom.

In dancing the role, "I think I'm more of a woman falling in love," said the American Ballet Theatre prima ballerina, who is one of the finest classical dancers on the U.S. stage.

"She's...saying to her sisters, the other maidens, 'maybe we'll be saved because I fell in love.' And so it's almost a joyous solo rather than a tragic one," Gregory said, referring to the solo after the act II Pas de Deux.

The Swan is actually two roles: Odette, a maiden turned into a swan by a magician's spell; and Odile, an evil twin who tries to destroy the love of Odette and the prince.

The role makes even seasoned ballerinas nervous, but not Gregory, who has been dancing it since 1967.

"I feel I was born to dance that role," she said in an interview before a recent performance at the Teatro Colon. "I love being the swan, and I love being two characters in the same ballerina... and the music is glorious. It moves me no matter what."

Gregory, 44 and nearing the end of a career that has lasted almost three decades, reflected on the role with which she is most identified.

"Even though some ballerinas say it's the most difficult role, for me it isn't," she said. "Technically it's my kind of steps...It's not a lot of jumping, which I don't like to do."

Gregory would rather turn and balance, a preference well-suited to the 32 consecutive spins of the black swan Pas de Deux. Gregory is renowned for the exquisite phrasing of her turns.

Gregory, whose partners have included Rudolf Nureyev, Fernando Bjonnes and Ivan Nagy, hopes to make a video of her Swan Lake before she retires in the next two or three years.

"It takes a lot more willpower and a lot more getting

past the pain now," she said. "If I take a day off, I really feel it."

She added, "I also want to dance my best, leave it at that point and have people say, 'why did she stop?' She was so wonderful," rather than go, "it's time this woman stopped dancing."

Class and rehearsals blissfully will become things of the past, she said, but unfortunately so too will those cherished moments, "when I am completely in my element and God is moving me around on a string."

"Sometimes that happens, when I come out of myself and things happen on the stage that seem impossible to me, and yet they're happening to me. I guess it's from a lot of hard work, but I think I was just meant to dance, and God is holding me up."

There is one role she will be happy to bid farewell to — Myrtha, the queen of the vengeful wraiths in the second act of Giselle.

"It was all jumping, and once you're finished with your part, then you just stand there for the rest of the time and order people around," she said.

"And musically it never seemed to work for me," Gregory said. "She's supposed to be this cold, cold woman, full of hate, and her music is this tinkly music that has nothing to do with hate."

Gregory speaks often of music. A Californian of Greek and French Canadian descent, she is from a musical family. Her grandfather arranged the national anthem of Canada.

"I think a lot of dancers don't use the music the way they could," she noted. "They don't pay that much attention to it except for the beat and the rhythm. But I think there's the essence of what the music is trying to tell you, and that's what they should be on stage — the essence of the music."

Gregory is putting those and other thoughts in an autobiography she hopes to finish by the time she retires.

Retirement will give her more time to spend with her husband, New York banker Hilary Miller, and 2½-year-old son Lloyd Gregory Miller.

Her last pirouette may not mean the end of her love affair with the audience. The articulate ballerina wants to go to Hollywood.

Norwegian witchcraft opera to test foreign audience

By Allister Doyle
Reuters

OSLO — A Norwegian pop opera based on a 15th century tale of witchcraft is about to make its debut abroad.

The female Duo Dollie De Luxe has been packing theatres around Norway for two years.

Benedikte Adrian and Ingrid Bjoernov, both 26, hope to change Norway's reputation as a musical backwater and are now seeking international success for the opera they wrote and composed, Which Witch.

The two are to perform, with a cast of 15 others, in Stratford-on-Avon in England

— their first performance to a public audience abroad.

"Their brilliant new pop opera...proclaims the arrival of a new and vital voice from the frozen north," Time magazine wrote after the duo performed to a private audience in Amsterdam last year.

Time rated Which Witch, part of a renaissance in Norwegian popular music, as the most impressive new composition from Scandinavia since Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus of Sweden's Abba wrote the music for the 1985 stage show Chess.

Adrian and Bjoernov have recently reworked and expanded the opera which is sung in English and blends the

styles of opera and musical with rock.

But the two say that coming from Norway with no previous experience of composing opera may not be ideal references.

"If you heard someone telling you that there are some Norwegians who have never written an opera before, but that they're great, what would you think?" asks Adrian, whose soaring soprano extends to a window-shattering B flat above the high C.

"You can't follow the steps of other Norwegians because it's not really been done before," adds Bjoernov, who conducts while playing keyboards.

Apart from the 19th century composer Edvard Grieg no Norwegian has achieved lasting international fame for music.

In the late 1970s Norwegian popular music achieved some notoriety when Jan Teigen became the first singer ever to score zero points in the Eurovision song contest.

But since then Norwegian pop groups A-Ha and Dance With a Stranger have had a string of international hits.

Dollie De Luxe's biggest international success so far was a single from its 1986 rock versus opera album, which sold 200,000 copies in Europe, mainly in France. The single combines the

highly demanding queen of the night's first aria from Mozart's opera The Magic Flute, with the Rolling Stones' Satisfaction, in a complex, swirling composition.

The two women have been the darlings of the Norwegian media and recently won a sponsorship deal worth more than \$600,000 from Norwegian industrial firm Norsk Hydro.

Bjoernov and Adrian, who grew up in the same part of Oslo and have been playing together since they were aged 12, aim eventually to take Which Witch, a theatre in London's West End, perhaps in 1991.

The plot is based on a tale

in the Malleus Maleficarum, a handbook for the prosecution of witches written by two German inquisitors in 1487.

Against a backdrop of superstition and religion, a German bishop, Daniel Conrad von Fuchs, strikes up an illicit love affair in Rome, with an Italian, Maria Vittoria di Benevento, played by Adrian.

But a series of coincidences — lightning knocking the spire off the church when the couple arrive in the bishop's home town, an extended illness for the bishop — fuel speculation that Maria Vittoria is a witch.

She is eventually tried and condemned to burn.

Panama's hospitals 'are falling apart'

By Lerna Llerena
Reuters

PANAMA CITY — Buildings are falling down, staff often have to carry patients on stretchers up flights of stairs because elevators are broken and operating theatres are closed for lack of medical supplies.

Officials say Panama's state-run health system is on the verge of collapse after three years of political crisis leading up to last December's U.S. invasion that ousted General Manuel Noriega.

In the rural city of Santiago, 250 kilometres west of Panama City, the roof of a hospital's emergency and maternity

room collapsed during torrential rains in April, according to Health Minister Jose Trinidad Castillero. No-one was hurt but 40 patients had to be moved.

Another hospital on one of the remote San Blas Islands off Panama's Atlantic coast is sinking as well as collapsing, he said.

"The view at the national level is really critical," Castillero said in an interview with Reuters. "To repair all hospitals and health centres we would need about \$10 million."

President Guillermo Endara has declared the nation's health care system, which in-

cludes more than 700 health centres, in a state of emergency, forcing the government to move as quickly as possible on the issue.

A lack of medical supplies, including Penicillin and painkillers, has sometimes forced operating rooms in remote areas to close or allow only emergency surgery.

"Each day, more people are going to die who don't have to and the blame isn't ours because there aren't supplies," Dr. Ruben Echavarría, president of an Association of Panamanian Doctors said in a recent newspaper interview.

The new government,

which is deeply in debt and faces numerous other social problems, has increased the health budget by 26 per cent over last year to \$101.5 million.

A large part of that is to go toward medical supplies and salaries, but doctors say it is not enough.

The director of the Children's Hospital in Panama City, Esteban Lopez said his institution alone needs more than \$1 million to correct its most serious problems.

Panama has received some foreign donations to help resolve the crisis, including \$1 million announced by Spain in June for medical equipment

and scholarships for medical school.

Castillero blamed the problems on years of corruption and neglect under Noriega, deposed in the Dec. 20 invasion that brought the new U.S.-backed government to power.

"They robbed the money from the institutions; they closed their eyes to the needs of the hospitals," he said.

Noriega, before he was ousted, blamed the deterioration of the health system on the economic sanctions imposed by the United States in 1988 to help force him from power.

New probe technique 'eases the discovery of genetic defects'

By Dieter Schwab
Nürnberg Nachrichten

LOOKING for specific genes in man's genetic make-up used to be about as difficult as looking for a needle in a haystack. But a new technique devised by Erlangen University geneticists has simplified the process.

"We have succeeded," writes Professor Uwe Claassen of Erlangen University department of human genetics, "in reducing the haystack to the size of a few handfuls of hay."

Work at research laboratories should now be easier, especially as the new technique ensures an adequate supply of the scarce material they work with.

Genes are all to be found in the DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, of each living cell. It is a molecular thread about two metres long and two millionths of a millimetre thick.

Genetic information about, say, eye colour, size of nose, shape of ear or, for that matter, susceptibility to illness is "concealed" in long DNA sections where no relevant information is stored, as far as scientists now know.

That is what makes research so difficult, as Professor Claassen tries to explain with resort to another figure of speech. "Genes," he says, "are as few and far between in DNA as islands in the sea."

Yet it would be useful to know where which genes are located, what they look like in their normal state and when they are damaged or defective and what complaints may be caused by damage.

This knowledge could, in some cases, save children's lives and make other, suspicious and extremely unpleasant medical checks unnecessary.

There are congenital eye tumours for which both the gene and the DNA defect are

known. Children in whom these tumours may be hereditary can be spared years of possibly unnecessary regular checks by a simple test. If they are found to have small tumours at the back of their eyes they can be treated by laser and cured before the tumours have done any serious damage.

The new technique can be a godsend for couples who have a child with a congenital disease such as muscular dystrophy, haemophilia or mucopolysaccharidosis and would like to know whether the child has inherited the complaint from one of them.

It may just have been bad luck, as opposed to heredity, in which case they may feel encouraged to have another child.

In the case of eye tumours the technique is fairly easy to use; in most others it isn't. In many cases we know roughly where the defective genes that cause congenital diseases are located, but we know nothing about either them or their damaged state.

A few figures should illustrate the immensity of the problem. There are about six billion so-called base pairs in the human DNA structure.

In chromosomes they are subdivided into so-called bands each containing roughly ten million base pairs. It often takes years to identify the individual gene consisting of between several hundred and a thousand base pairs.

But it is much more easily done when scientists can get to work on the right band in the laboratory, so Professor Claassen and Gabriele Senger concentrated on a microdissection and microcloning technique that has been available for several years.

It has been known to exist but little use has been made of it because of the difficulties it entailed. The Erlangen geneticists have developed

and improved it to a substantial extent.

The band that contains the gene which is to blame for the complaint is cut out of the chromosomes by a glass needle under a microscope that magnifies the process 120-fold.

The DNA is specifically reduced in size by means of enzymes and implanted in so-called vectors designed to allow the test-tube DNA to progressively double in quantity.

Once it has been doubled and redoubled a sufficient number of times, the DNA sections that are of interest are reproduced yet again bacteriologically until there are about 20,000 each per band.

It may sound fairly simple but it is easier said than done, which is why working parties at other universities send DNA samples to Erlangen for duplication rather than do it themselves.

The Erlangen research scientists not unnaturally no longer have any problems with the technique. They, after all, developed and perfected it.

It has been used, for instance, to identify the gene that is to blame for the Langer-Giedion Syndrome, an extremely rare hereditary disease that causes physical and mental retardation and other defects.

The Erlangen team are now homing in on the genetic defect that is responsible for the Wilms tumour, a malignant kidney complaint that mainly occurs during the first five years of childhood.

Another project is to identify the cause of a tumour on the eighth cranial nerve, "Work of this kind has grown less difficult," Professor Claassen says.

"We can now come by the DNA material we need to identify the genes that cause a complaint both faster and more specifically."

Childlessness — a frequent cause for childlessness

By Karl Stankiewicz
Frankfurter Neue Presse

AN ESTIMATED 1.3 million couples in West Germany are involuntarily childless, and at least 400,000 of them are ill as a consequence.

Yet at least half of them could be helped by suitable professional advice and treatment, said Klaus Dietrich of Bonn University Hospital's Maternity Clinic in Munich.

Professor Dietrich is the spokesman for a newly-founded initiative on wanted children and reproductive medicine that held its inaugural press conference in the Bavarian capital.

Environmental influences are an increasingly frequent cause of damage to reproduc-

tive functions, journalists were told.

Freimut Leidenberger of the Department of Hormone and Reproductive Research at Hamburg University Hospital listed 21 categories of chemicals women used at home or work that had been proved to affect their menstrual cycle.

Two of them induced abortions, while other environmental toxins could affect the libido, cause direct damage to the ovaries, stop the fertilised ovum from settling in the ovary wall, trigger physical defects and give rise to malignant tumours in newborn babies.

Few if any smokers realise that the over 1,000 chemical compounds identified in cigarette smoke include reproductive toxins that affect

the pituitary gland and upset ovary functions.

Women smokers won average reach the menopause three years sooner than non-smokers. Smoking at child-bearing age boosts adrenalin output, which can upset the Fallopian tubes and womb and misdirect the embryo.

A Munich working party has discovered that a vegetarian slimming diet can often upset the menstrual cycle. Menstruation can also be triggered by the sense of smell: the smell of pheromones, for instance.

Chronic alcoholics tend to be impotent. Female heroin addicts frequently have abortions and children who suffer from dietary deficiencies. But coffee is harmful only at a high intake, Professor

Leidenberger said.

Herbert Kantenich of Berlin University Hospital's Charlotenburg Maternity Clinic said childlessness could make people ill. They felt insulted, helpless, afraid, isolated and maybe even hooked on the idea of a child of their own.

Hysteria and depression occasionally occurred. Additional sexual upsets affected 15 per cent of childless couples. "Spontaneity goes by the board; sex is no longer felt to be as enjoyable."

Yet in at least 20 to 25 per cent of cases, pregnancy occurs without treatment when the couple feel relaxed or are on holiday.

The new group set up to deal with these and other

aspects of childlessness and reproductive medicine includes medical specialists in various disciplines, a lawyer, a moral theologian and representatives of self-help organisations.

Their aim is to help to create a greater public awareness of the social dimension of unwanted childlessness, to promote understanding for couples affected and to develop greater problem consciousness among doctors and the wider public where reproductive medicine is concerned.

Starting next month, German health insurance schemes are to resume payment for medical and psychological treatment of childless patients, she said.

New discovery may lead to treatment of Alzheimer's victims

By Paul Raeburn
The Associated Press

BAR HARBOR, Maine — The discovery of a genetic defect that may cause most cases of Alzheimer's Disease could someday lead to a treatment, researchers say.

"We're anxiously following this, and if it's true it would be quite significant," said Creighton Phelps, vice president of medical and scientific affairs at the National Alzheimer's Association in Chicago.

On Tuesday, Dr. Allen Roses of the Duke University Medical School in North Carolina said he found a genetic abnormality that may cause the most common form of Alzheimer's Disease, which afflicts about 4 million Americans.

The finding surprised most researchers studying the disease's genetics. They have been busily investigating a different abnormality.

"We're betting the output of our laboratory" that the new abnormality is the cause of all but a rare form of Alzheimer's, Roses said.

In a presentation at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Roses said that based on his study of 32 families in which Alzheimer's is prevalent, the disease appears to be linked to an abnormality on Chromosome 19, one of the 23 pairs of human chromosomes.

Previous studies found a defect on Chromosome 21 linked to an early-onset form of Alzheimer's in which memory loss and other symptoms begin to appear around age

40. That form of the disease has been found in only 10 or 20 families in the world, Roses said.

It could turn out that the early-onset form of Alzheimer's is a different disease. Roses used his genetic samples to search for a defect on Chromosome 21 in late-onset Alzheimer's disease and couldn't find it.

The idea that Chromosome 21 is linked to the disease was so powerful that Roses said he has had difficulty persuading others that Chromosome 21 may not be the culprit in most cases. He said he has been frustrated in efforts to publish his finding in a scientific journal.

Other researchers are now rapidly trying to determine whether their genetic samples from Alzheimer's victims also

reveal an abnormality on Chromosome 19, said Dr. Peter St. George-Hyslop of Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. He is one of the discoverers of the defect on Chromosome 21.

"The follow-up studies need to be done," Dr. George-Hyslop said. "This area of genetics of late-onset neurological disease is extremely difficult to do."

Finding the genetic defect is a crucial first step toward figuring out precisely what goes wrong in Alzheimer's disease and perhaps how to fix it. No cause or cure is known for the progressive neurological disorder.

One of the problems with doing research on Alzheimer's is that the disease normally appears in people in their

60s, 70s or 80s. Many people who carry a genetic predisposition for the disease die of something else before they develop it, Roses said.

Researchers differ in their view of the disease. Roses believes that virtually all people would develop Alzheimer's if they lived long enough. Some people merely have an abnormality that makes the disease show up in their 60s. Others might not get it unless they lived to be 120, he said.

In fact, the condition normally thought of as senility in very old people is indistinguishable from Alzheimer's, Roses said.

The genetic research could ultimately lead to a way to delay the appearance of the disease, if not cure it outright, Roses said.

AIDS report puts stress on voluntary steps

By Heidrun Graupner
Süddeutsche Zeitung

THE FINAL report of the Bundestag (West German parliament) commission of inquiry into AIDS, published at the beginning of June, came out against compulsory registration and compulsory measures and mass tests of any kind.

It called for less official interference and a greater emphasis on voluntary measures and the responsibility of the individual.

Three weeks later the Bavarian Interior Ministry released details of its "contrast programme," a series of anonymous mass tests of hospital patients starting, on an experimental basis, at university hospitals and scheduled to cost DM1m.

Günther Beckstein, state secretary at the Interior Ministry, hopes the Bavarian pilot project will be taken up all over the country.

Epidemiologists have long felt the need for a detailed, anonymous AIDS survey.

There are good reasons why anonymous mass tests of this kind have not yet been carried out. The patient's right to privacy rules out diagnostics for inquiry purposes, as lawyers term it.

The better the methods of treatment that are available, the graver the ethical misgivings that may arise. Mass tests might diagnose AIDS yet fail to treat the patient.

Last but not least, what use is the statistical material that tests of this kind will yield? Tests of hospital patients cannot provide reliable statistics.

Hospitalised patients and accident victims are not a cross-section of the population, not even if the over-60s, who account for one patient in

three, are not to be included in the survey.

Statistics compiled on the basis of strict anonymity will inevitably fail to yield information about how infection spreads and any new risk groups that may have arisen.

Statistics to which the Federal Health Office already has access, such as figures supplied by medical laboratories and blood donor centres, convey an extremely clear and vivid picture of the way in which AIDS has spread.

The disease is not spreading at the rate feared in, say, 1986. Since 1982 there have been 4,863 known AIDS cases in the Federal Republic of Germany; 358 have been women, 2,102 have died.

Since laboratories have been required to report all cases of HIV infection 37,816 cases have been reported. Between 50,000 and 100,000 people in the Federal Republic are estimated to be HIV-positive.

What these statistics mainly prove is that health education and information have been effective. The number of new infections has declined, as has the number of cases in which AIDS itself has been reported.

In 1983 the number of new infections reported was doubling every eight months. It now doubles every 18 months. Only three per cent of pa-

Information is key to transplant success

By Rolf H. Simen
General-Anzeiger

FACTS and figures are of crucial importance for the success of organ transplants, which is why an European information network has been mooted.

A wide range of factors influences whether transplanted organs are accepted by the host. Information is badly needed on these factors and on the availability of organs suitable for transplantation.

Professor Gerhard Opelz of Heidelberg University made this point at a Heidelberg seminar on dialysis and kidney transplants.

Trials indicated, he said, that kidney transplant success rates could be improved by over 10 per cent by optimising allocation.

"There is, in particular, an urgent need to extend organ exchange facilities for certain risk groups throughout Europe, contrary to the present practice."

"That is the only way in which compatibility can be ensured for as many patients as possible."

At the transplantation immunology unit of Heidelberg University department of immunology, Professor Opelz has been associated since 1982

with an international data survey.

The aim of the survey is to compile and collate as many facts and figures as possible, bearing in mind that all manner of details are of immense importance for organ allocation.

At present 262 kidney transplant centres and 85 heart transplant centres in 38 countries are associated with the survey.

The data of nearly 70,000 kidney transplants and over 5,000 heart transplant operations have been filed so far.

According to statistics kept by the board of trustees for dialysis and kidney transplants 12,495 kidney transplant operations were carried out in the Federal Republic of Germany between 1970 and 1988, including 1,778 last year.

The board, set up in 1969, has established over 100 dialysis centres and provides staff, organisational and financial back-up for 27 transplant centres.

About 5,000 German kidney patients now live with a successful kidney transplant. A further 6,000 of the 20,000-plus dialysis patients in the Federal Republic are on the transplant waiting list. On average they wait three years before a suitable kidney is

available. In the medium term at least 2,400 transplants a year are planned.

Professor Rudolf Pichlmayr of Hanover medical school said kidney transplants were an established technique, while heart transplants had a "high success rate."

About 250 heart transplants a year are carried out in the Federal Republic, plus 140 liver transplants last year — with a "growing degree of success."

Transplantation of both heart and lung and of the pancreas is still at the development stage.

An estimated 400 bone marrow transplant operations a year are carried out in the Federal Republic. Transplants of parts of the eye and the ear are also undertaken.

Donor organs are still in short supply, the experts agreed. Professor Pichlmayr felt demand would exceed supply even if as many people as possible were prepared to donate organs and medical cooperation in this sector was first-rate.

The problems are complex. They concern not only individuals who might like to donate organs after their death but also their next of kin should they suddenly die and their organs be suitable for use in transplant surgery.

To donate or not to donate. The decision can be extremely difficult, with much heartsearching and heartache, if the potential donor has not made his views absolutely clear beforehand.

Many people are worried that once they have committed themselves as organ donors, doctors might be tempted to sign a death certificate prematurely, as it were.

Professor Pichlmayr said everything must be done to save a potential organ donor's life. Once all efforts have failed, the donor must be certified dead before an organ is removed.

"No matter how urgently a recipient needs a transplant," he told the Heidelberg seminar, "there must be no exception to these two golden rules."

Yet most people are aware of the unenviable concept of brain death. These are cases in which the patient's entire brain is damaged beyond repair but his body is still functioning.

Professor Klaus Roosen of Giessen University said brain death meant the death of the individual in medical, legal and theological terms.

Modern intensive care and mechanical respiration were alone able to postpone the

death of other organs by between a few hours and a few days.

According to the 1986 revised guidelines of the Federal Medical Chamber on brain death diagnosis, the diagnosis must comprise three stages.

All brain functions must be shown to have ceased.

This must be certified separately by two doctors, one of whom must have long experience of intensive care of patients with serious brain damage.

If an organ transplant is envisaged, both certifying doctors must have nothing whatever to do with the transplant surgeons and their associates.

Professor Roosen outlined case histories to show how important it was to be "frank, earnest and truthful" in caring for the next of kin.

Next of kin who felt confident in the doctors in charge of the case were likelier to agree to an organ donation. In between 80 and 90 per cent of the cases he treated they did so, he said.

That ought not to be the end of the matter. It would help the nearest and dearest to get over the shock if they were to be told in person by the doctor in charge of the case that the organ transplant had been a success.

tients hail from non-risk groups, so apocalyptic forecasts of the entire population being infected have yet to come true.

Jonathan Mann, director of the World Health Organisation's AIDS programme, says the disease cannot be kept in check until a vaccine has been developed.

He recently wrote that there was no reason for calling off the alarm. By the year 2000 an estimated six million AIDS cases were expected to be on record worldwide.

Information is the only counter-measure available. Mann repeats that the greatest risk is declining concern about it. New strategies include both the quest for a vaccine and the quest for new information campaign tactics.

Information must be on a more specific basis and aimed at individual risk groups. If health policymakers are as worried about AIDS as they say they are they must make provision for those who are ill and continue to be at the receiving end of discrimination and for groups who are outside the mainstream of society.

How many cases of AIDS infection could have been prevented if heroin addicts had been provided with disposable needles years ago?

Methadon, prescribed as an alternative to heroin, may not be approved by the Bavarian authorities but it can help addicts who are hopelessly dependent on the needle to escape the vicious circle of prostitution to earn the money for their next fix.

Health policy must be convincing if it is to promote the sense of responsibility of the individual.

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July 1990

Features

'After this next one we're going to stop'

By Chris Angelo
The Associated Press

CHIMALHUACAN, Mexico — When officials presented a plan that reduced the goal of reducing annual population growth to 1 per cent by the year 2000, an annoyed president ordered them back to their numbers.

Fausto and Gloria Aquino have eight children and are one reason the goal probably won't be met.

"There didn't used to be planning," said Aquino, 45, and his wife added: "now that there is, we don't practice it."

Aquino, his dark eyes twinkling, leaned against a meat case at their butcher shop-fruit stand. Gloria, 37, dipped a sheet of pork rind into a vat of smoking fat outside the store.

An extensive network of family planning programmes that shrank annual population growth from 3.5 per cent in the early 1970s to 2.1 per cent recently is certainly available to the Aquinos.

Fausto and Gloria aren't in a mountain village, hours from a health centre. Below the rusted, flash-littered road that runs up Dove Hill, past the butcher shop, metropolitan Mexico City

spreads out 9 miles across lakebed flatland to the downtown skyscrapers, a shadowy island in the smog.

Next to their shop is a family planning clinic painted sunny yellow, occupying two rooms rented to it by Aquino. He jokes with the doctor, Hipolito Ascencio Matos.

A well-publicised family planning programme quickly reaches half the women in the area, those who want to limit their families and are waiting for the means to do it, said Evold Hoesien, director of programme support for the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

"That figure stabilises unless we do something differently," he said by telephone from New York. "We're not sure what it is that we must do differently."

About 55 per cent of Mexican women of reproductive age use contraceptives, according to the health department. The number varies widely by education level and between rural areas and the cities.

Young families with only two children, once an oddity, are becoming common in large cities.

Abortion is illegal, but common. Although Mexico is overwhelmingly Roman Catholic, the

church does not actively oppose family planning.

The one per cent annual growth goal was in 1977, four years after the constitution was changed from advocating births to promoting family planning, and the sale of contraceptives was legalised.

To reduce population growth to that level, 82 per cent of fertile women will have to use contraceptives, a larger proportion than in the United States or China, government demographers say. The number of children a woman bears must decline from this year's average of 3.4 to 1.67 in 1999.

President Carlos Salinas De Gortari links reducing population growth to development.

"The social needs and economic demands, especially for job creation, are too many for us to abandon this original goal of 1 per cent demographic growth by the year 2000," he said in February. "Even reaching it, the challenges will be formidable. Imagine if we don't achieve it."

He spoke after officials admitted missing earlier marks and proposed a goal of 1.5 per cent a year. That would put the population at 105 million in 2000, about 4 million more than Salinas'

pace. In a rare public reprimand, Salinas singled out the three largest public health services.

"Your effort has diminished and, as a consequence, we have to redouble it, especially in rural areas," he said.

The director of the National Population Programme was reprimanded.

Mexico is emerging from deep depression and has difficulty providing education, public services and utility installations. With half the population under age 19, more than 800,000 people enter the job market each year.

In May, the United Nations said in its annual population report that total fertility rates were declining more slowly than expected. The 1990s will determine whether the world population of 5.3 billion doubles or triples before levelling off, said Dr. Nafsa Sadik, director of the U.N. Population Fund.

Uncertain figures make it even harder to chart Mexico's growth. Preliminary numbers from the 1990 census indicate the population is less than 82 million, 4 million below some estimates, said a public health service official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Jesus Kumate, the health secretary, said these steps must be taken: Improve education and job opportunities for women, train more local health workers to insert intrauterine devices, increase sex education in schools and subsidise an injectable contraceptive developed in Mexico.

Fausto Aquino, whose youngest children were playing at his feet, said he approved of Salinas' objective "because that way everyone will be able to eat the same."

"It's easier for the young people," he added. "They're going to see the situation, that there isn't so much and that you suffer."

He thinks having his children work is good. His oldest, a 19-year-old son, helps him in the shop and the 14-year-old also plans to be a butcher. His 16-year-old daughter sells produce in a market.

The youngest Aquino is a year old.

Posters inside the open clinic door, and Dr. Ascencio's arguments fail to lure him in for a vasectomy. He says he's afraid and his wife said her body would not tolerate contraceptives. "After this next one we're going to stop," Aquino said.

So who tops world's wealth league?

SO on whom should the dubious accolade of being the world's richest person be bestowed? Is it the Japanese businessman, Yoshiaki Tsutsumi, or the son of Brunei?

Americans, who are reputedly much exercised by the subject, have been left in some doubt by conflicting reports in two rival business magazines.

The latest issue of Forbes awards the title — for the fourth successive year — to Tsutsumi after estimating his net worth at \$16 billion. He is thus a cool \$1 billion richer than he was a year earlier.

Last September, however, Fortune magazine said that the man who has built up a railway and real estate empire was worth a mere \$3.1 billion. With \$25 billion at his disposal, the richest person in the world, it added, was the ruler of Brunei, a South-East Asian mini-state but a major oil and gas producer.

But Forbes point out with some disdain that its survey excludes royal families and heads of state as their wealth "derives more from political heritage than economic effort."

Some readers would probably find it at least equally interesting if either of the publications were to identify the world's poorest person in money terms. Although unnamed, he or she is African and probably a citizen of Mozambique. The former Portuguese colony, plagued by civil war for most of its 15 years of independence, is the world's poorest country.

At \$100, it has the lowest gross national product per head of population, according to the latest World Bank table. Ethiopia, also torn by strife and the scene of repeated famines, is next to bottom with a figure of \$120.

Switzerland, with \$27,500, leads the table, followed by Japan

with \$21,020, and Norway with \$19,990. The United States only attains fourth place with \$19,840, although the Forbes survey provides some consolation by giving it the great number of individual billionaires — 62.

The magazine also claims that they are a growing breed. It reports that its researches have identified 271 billionaire individuals or families, 45 more than last year.

A noteworthy feature, it says, is that the list includes 38 West German billionaire families. This was far higher ratio in population terms than either the equivalent figures for Japan and the U.S. — 44 and 99.

Forbes' choice as the world's second richest man is also Japanese. Takichiro Mori, a former professor of economics who became a property tycoon, is said to be worth at least \$14.6 billion. At the last count, he owned 78 office buildings — Lion Features.

Australians 'thank God' their drug problems are not as bad as U.S.'s

By Paul Alexander
The Associated Press

SYDNEY, Australia — The Rolls-Royce and Jaguar showrooms on William Street will open in a couple of hours. Before they do, a city worker sweeps up the used syringes and condoms from a night's business of another kind.

This is King's Cross, a stretch of nightclubs, restaurants and strip joints where virtually anything is for sale.

"This is the sex and drug centre for the whole country," said Dr. Sigrid Van Beek, director of the Kirketon Road Centre, which offers help and medical care. "From midnight to 6 a.m., if you're looking for prostitution or drugs, it's easy to score around here."

Prostitution is either legal or largely tolerated in Australia, depending on the state, so Sydney police concentrate on controlling the abuse of drugs and alcohol.

The narcotics problem is growing, but is far short of the magnitude in the United States. Crack cocaine and the potent metham-

phetamine "ice" for instance, have yet to arrive in significant quantities.

Seizures of cocaine at ports and airports rose from 19 kilograms in the 1988-89 fiscal year to 70 kilograms in 1989-90, officials said.

Marijuana comes from South-east Asia and other prime growing areas, and from domestic farming operations that sometimes include huge, irrigated tracts with security systems.

Heroin is smuggled from abroad in increasing quantities. The raw materials for amphetamines are smuggled in, but the drugs are made here.

Customs and the Australian federal police said in a joint statement that most amphetamines "are produced through backyard manufacture in clandestine laboratories."

A survey in 1988, which provides the latest figures available, indicated there were 30,000 to 50,000 drug addicts and 60,000 occasional users among the 12 million Australians aged 14 and older. It said 1.2 million to 1.4 million acknowledged using marijuana in the previous year and

240,000 said they had used amphetamines.

Police suspect that, in an attempt to get around strict inspection of people and goods arriving from known drug areas, dealers are using other South Pacific countries as way stations.

In February, U.S. officials seized a 3,000-kilogramme shipment of marijuana from Thailand that had been shipped first to New Zealand, where it was concealed in a shipping container of carpets and woollens.

Tasmania, an island state off the South Coast, is one of the few places in the world where opium poppies are grown legally. From the poppy resin, pharmaceutical companies produce morphine and codeine phosphate for export.

Security at the 6,800 hectares (17,000 acres) of poppy fields was tightened recently after 500 grammes of resin was found in Victoria State and traced to Tasmania.

Sedatives such as rohypnol and scerepax are popular with young people and pharmacists have been accused of selling the drugs at reduced prices to attract customers. Mixing them with heroin has become a deadly practice.

"Of the 54 heroin deaths examined by the institute in the past

year, 32 tested positive for benzos (sedatives like rohypnol)," said Stephen Cordner of the Victoria State Institute of Forensic Pathology.

The combination recently killed four teenagers in a group of seven who grew up in Redfern, an Aboriginal neighbourhood in Sydney, and were confined together in the Reiby detention centre for juveniles.

A fifth, 18-year-old Stephanie Jones, was hospitalised with broken legs and a broken arm after jumping from a police station window. Another was under guard at Reiby, classified as "out of control," and her sister, from the seventh in the group, was to be released into a drug-rehabilitation programme.

"The deaths have made me heaps scared, but I want to get off drugs," Stephanie said from her hospital bed. "I don't want to die like that."

Stephanie said she used heroin because she felt "left out."

Some officials have begun to talk of keeping the drug problem under control rather than eliminating it.

Australian Democrats, a small political party, has recommended a government-run distribution service to take drugs away from organised crime.

Mike Elliott, a party representative in South Australia state, said last month that tough laws had not halted the drug trade and experience showed it would continue growing. He said drug use should be treated as a public health problem, not a crime.

Dr. Van Beek's Kirketon Road Centre was established three years ago to fight the spread of AIDS among intravenous drug users, and gives out 15,000 needles a month. Needle-sharing by drug users is one of the main ways the deadly disease is spread.

"Luckily, we were very fast in setting up the needle-exchange programme," Dr. Van Beek told an interviewer.

"It's too late in the United States, where 80 per cent" of intravenous drug users are infected with the AIDS virus, she said, but "it's only 3 to 5 per cent here."

Asked about concern that distributing needles might encourage drug use, she said: "Thank God we haven't run into that attitude here. No study in the world shows that you encourage drug use by providing clean needles. Would you use... drugs just because a needle was available?"

Suppressed by Communism, Vietnam's traditional dress finds its way to the streets

By Peter Eng
The Associated Press

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam — Vietnamese women once again are wearing the Ao Dai, the sensual, elegant traditional dress that rigid communists suppressed for years in favour of drab shirts and black trousers.

Students alight from bicycles in pure white Ao Dais whose fabric clings to the body and flows over the legs.

The Ao Dai, which literally means "long dress," had been worn for at least 13 centuries, but virtually disappeared after the communists won the war in April 1975 and imposed their spartan ethos on what had been South Vietnam.

It is slit on both sides from the waist down and is worn with loose white trousers. It is usually made of a blend of silk and nylon and costs about 110,000 dong (\$22), an expensive item in a country with one of the world's lowest per capita incomes.

Colour and fashion began returning in late 1986, when the authorities allowed a more open society and adapted Western-style economic reforms.

Now the Ao Dai graces high school students, hotel receptionists, airport staff, and workers at the foreign trade bank, central post office and textile mills in Ho Chi Minh City.

It also is said to be regaining popularity in other areas of southern Vietnam.

Tram Phouc Chan, owner of the city's largest Ao Dai factory, said his workers made only 10 a day in the years immediately after the war and had to work second jobs. His 20 full-time employees now make 25 garments a day and work extra hours to keep up with orders during the Christmas season and Tet, the Vietnamese new year.

Wives of Communist Party Politburo members have begun wearing Ao Dais at receptions, said Nguyen Thi Thanh, editor of the magazine Ho Chi Minh

Women's weekly. A Miss Ao Dai contest the magazine sponsored in March 1989 was the greatest impetus for the revival. It was the first beauty pageant in the city since 1975 and the most popular event in recent years.

"The Ao Dai has immortal beauty; no one can kill it," Ms. Thanh said. "Even without this contest, it would have reappeared."

For five nights, a gymnasium that seats 6,000 was jammed with people cheering their favourites among the 165 contestants, she said. Do Thi Kieu Khanh, a 20-year-old hairdresser, won in a bright yellow Ao Dai embroidered with roses.

Despite the more liberal atmosphere, the mayor and local communist party chief refused to attend the contest and older officials found the pageant offensive, Ms. Thanh said.

Some derided the Ao Dai as symbolising luxury and laziness, she said, and the party has rejected the magazine's application for another Miss Ao Dai contest this year.

The Ao Dai's return to the classroom has been received enthusiastically, but some parents complain of the cost and students say it is difficult to ride a bicycle while wearing the dress, said Ho Thien Thung of the education department.

He said the department made it the required uniform in 10 senior high schools this year in response to student requests, and for all senior high next year.

"When the girls started wearing the Ao Dai, the male students suddenly became very polite with them," and boys took over such messy classroom chores as cleaning the blackboards, Thung said. Chan, the Ao Dai maker, said white fabric embroidered with birds and flowers is the most popular.

Some Ao Dais are sequined. Other variations recently seen in the city include leopard-skin patterns and bare-shoulder styles.

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Soviets continue to lead medal list at Goodwill Games

SEATTLE (AP) — The host Americans, embarrassed in men's basketball, baseball and hockey in the previous two days, showed they haven't lost the winning touch.

The U.S. women, world champions and gold-medal favorites, routed the South Koreans 94-70 in Basketball Tuesday night and the U.S. men downed the Soviet Union three games to two in volleyball.

But Cuba captured the gold in the United States' national pastime, defeating Japan 6-1. The Americans beat Canada 10-4 for the bronze medal.

The three individual gold medals awarded Tuesday were won by world champion Lori Norwood of the United States in the women's modern pentathlon, Soviet Anatoli Starostin in the men's pentathlon and 1988 Olympic diving champion Gao Min of China off the 3-metre springboard.

The Soviets led the medals race by 146-129 over the United States and held a 53-52 edge in golds. East Germany is a distant third with 40 total medals.

Basketball

Co-captain Teresa Edwards and Vickie Orr led five U.S. players in double figures with 15 points each. Lynette Woodard, the other co-captain, had 12.

Trailing 26-24 midway through the first half, the Americans went on a 20-3 run over the next four minutes to clinch matters.

"We'll try and run as much as we can," coach Theresa Grenz said. "With a team as talented as this, I don't want to spend a lot of time making six or seven passes."

The Americans are fresh off their second straight world championships, won last month in

Malaysia. Their experience is the reason for such success.

Volleyball

A rebuilding U.S. team still was good enough for the Soviets. The Americans won the 1984 and '88 Olympic titles, but they have been retooling the roster since losing stars Karch Kiraly and Steve Timmons.

After a poor opening game, the Americans made several lineup changes, bringing on bigger players up front to bolster their blocking. The moves worked and the United States won 8-15, 15-13, 17-16, 9-15, 15-6.

The Soviets weren't overly impressed by their conquerors. "They had the fighting spirit a little more than we did," said Oleg Shatunov, "but it is not the same team as before."

Baseball

Cuba got four-hit pitching from Jorge Valdes and four homers in its easy win over Japan. Antonio Pacheco hit two home runs, Victor and German Mesa had one each. The Cubans hit three straight homers in the seventh, including German Mesa's inside-the-park shot.

The United States won the bronze as Jorge Fabregas, Darren Bragg and Jim Austin led a 15-hit attack against Canada.

Pentathlon

Goodwill Games modern pentathlon winner Anatoli Starostin of the Soviet Union finally got a good ride on a homegrown family horse after having bad luck with his horse draw all season.

A fall from his mount at the World Championships in Finland last week kept Starostin, then in second place, from a gold medal.

He won the silver.

"In San Antonio for the World Cup, he nearly got killed when his horse rolled over on him," said U.S. athlete Rob Stull, who placed fourth Tuesday. "He's had bad luck in the draw at least half a dozen times."

Zodiac fixed that. Zodiac is a red dunn quarterhorse owned by 19-year-old Andreea Ciliborn, a student at Western Washington University.

At first, Zodiac looked like more bad luck for the Soviets.

In the women's ride, Soviet Jhann Dolgatcheva tussled with Zodiac throughout the course, accumulating 144 time faults and 180 jumping faults. That put her at the bottom of the women's riders and plunge her from fifth overall to 11th.

When men's overall leader Starostin drew the same animal for his ride, an audible groan could be heard in the grandstand. Bad luck.

But Starostin mastered Zodiac, posting a faultless ride to place third in the event and clinch his gold medal.

Starostin had been worried. "He was apprehensive," Ciliborn said. "I could tell by the look on his face when he made the draw."

"He was relieved when he got on and made a couple of practice runs. He smiled."

Starostin said after the ride. "At first it seemed difficult. But accidentally you quickly find the contact with the horse."

Cuba won an ill-tempered, five-game match over their arch rivals Italy in men's volleyball round-robin competition.

There was much taunting between the two sides, who finished

one-two in World Cup last year, but the Cubans backed up their talk by leading throughout the fifth set to win the deciding game by 15-12.

"Italy is one of the best teams in the world," Cuban coach Orlando Samuels Blackwood said. "They played an interesting game but we were stronger psychologically."

Joel Despaigne, the Cuban captain who led the World Cup champions with 30 kills, was given a red card, as was Italian Lorenzo Bernardi.

"I am very verbose. I always do that. It is a personal trait of mine," Despaigne said.

Cuba won the clash 15-6, 8-15, 15-8, 15-17, 15-12.

Diving

China's Gao had a brush with disaster before reaffirming her status as the best in women's three-metre springboard diving by winning the gold medal.

Gao was safely in the lead until her ninth dive when she grazed the board with her toes on the way down and posted a low score to open the door for Soviet Irina Lashko.

But the 19-year-old Gao came back strongly on her 10th and final dive to clinch victory.

"I touched the bottom of my toes," Gao, the Olympic champion and winner of the one and three-metre World Cup titles, said about her ninth dive. "I was surprised but it didn't hurt."

Lashko was unable to capitalize on her change to upset Gao because her 10th dive did not have a high degree of difficulty.

"I am not disappointed," said Lashko. "I think it was a fair result. My goal is to reach the same level as Gao."

Boxing

Super heavyweight boxer Roberto Balado did not think his result was fair at all. The Cuban world amateur champion was beaten in the quarter-finals when his bout against Soviet Yevgeni Belonov was stopped in the first round due to a cut.

"I didn't believe I was injured enough to stop it," the 22-year-old Balado said. "I am outraged."

Balado became the second Cuban world champion to fail to reach the semifinals of the boxing tournament. Bantamweight Enrique Carrion lost a close decision Monday.

"We feel some unjust decisions are being made," Balado said.

The athletes may be turning in some stellar performances, but from a financial point of view the Goodwill Games won't win any gold medals.

Losses from the games were originally projected at about \$13 million — half the \$26 million shortfall at the 1986 inaugural games in Moscow.

But games founder Ted Turner, the flamboyant television entrepreneur, now says the red ink has surpassed the Moscow mark, raising doubts about the future of the multi-sport competition.

"It is somewhere above where we were last time in the losses, but we won't know until it's over," Turner said at a press conference Monday.

Some speculate that losses could dwarf the Moscow games deficit. The Wall Street Journal reported the games could cost Turner Broadcasting System (TBS) more than \$40 million.

Soviet sports officials, however, said the 1994 games slated for Moscow and Leningrad could go on without Turner's support.

The total cost of the 1990 games is about \$180 million, and Turner Broadcasting has put up about half of that.

"If necessary we will find other sponsors. We have no doubts

Medal Table

(148 medal events)

	G	S	B	Tot
Soviet Union	53	55	38	146
United States	52	43	34	129
East Germany	10	7	23	40
Bulgaria	8	6	8	22
China	3	5	3	11
West Germany	3	2	4	9
Cuba	4	2	2	8
Canada	2	1	4	7
Romania	1	4	2	7
Australia	0	4	3	7
Netherlands	1	1	4	6
Japan	0	2	4	6
Spain	2	2	1	5
Hungary	1	1	3	5
Italy	1	2	1	4
Yugoslavia	1	1	2	4
Poland	3	0	0	3
South Korea	2	1	0	3
Turkey	0	2	1	3
Brazil	0	1	2	3
Denmark	1	0	1	2
Ethiopia	0	2	0	2
Kenya	0	1	1	2
Czechoslovakia	1	0	0	1
Mexico	1	0	0	1
Mongolia	1	0	0	1
Morocco	1	0	0	1
Suriname	1	0	0	1
Bahamas	0	1	0	1
New Zealand	0	1	0	1
Britain	0	0	1	1
Ireland	0	0	1	1

about the Goodwill Games," said Anatoli Kolesov, deputy chairman of Goskomsport, the Soviet co-promoters of the games.

Kolesov said the games would still need Western support for hard currency to pay the travel expenses for athletes.

Turner said he wants to see the games continue, but that the final decision on TBS involvement is up to the company's board of directors.

So far the games have sold about 760,000 of 1.1 million tickets available, close to expectations.

But the television audience has been much smaller than hoped, meaning Turner will likely have to give advertisers additional air time as compensation.

Organisers increase prize money for Australian Open

BELBOURNE (Agencies) — Organisers of the 1991 Australian Open Tennis Championships said Wednesday the tournament's prize money would be increased by 33 per cent from 3.9 million Australian dollars (\$2.9 million) in 1990 to 5.2 million dollars (\$3.9 million).

Geoff Pollard, president of Organisers Tennis Australia, also told reporters a daily allowance would be paid to every player for the first time.

But the total prize money is still far below that offered by the other three Grand Slam tournaments, the French Open, the U.S. Open and Wimbledon, and organisers have expressed fears that the Australian Open may become a second grade Grand Slam tournament.

Pollard said the world's top men and women players, Czechoslovakia's Ivan Lendl and Steffi Graf of West Germany, will defend their singles title at the

open, the first Grand Slam event of 1991, from Jan. 14 to 27.

Wimbledon men's champion and world second-ranked Stefan Edberg of Sweden, French Open Champion Andre Gomez of Ecuador, the fifth-ranked, and 1989 U.S. Open champion West Germany's Boris Becker, the world number three player, will also definitely take part, Pollard said.

But five of the top 10 women players, including world second-ranked American Martina Navratilova and number three Yugoslavia's Monica Seles, are missing from a provisional list of participants. Also missing are American Andre Agassi, men's world number four, Michael Chang, ranked 11th, and John McEnroe.

"McEnroe says he hasn't decided on his 1991 programme yet and he will consider what his plans are after the U.S. Open," said Tournament General Manager Jim Reid by telephone.

Edberg, Chang advance in Los Angeles tournament

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Top seed Stefan Edberg needed 75 minutes to defeat Maliwa Washington 6-2, 6-4 in a Volvo Men's Tennis Tournament after stumbling in the second set when he allowed Washington a 3-1 lead on a double fault.

Washington lost the next game on a double fault and Edberg won another three games to go ahead 5-3 before holding service to win the match.

In an earlier match Tuesday, Todd Witsken upset No. 2 seed and defending champion Aaron Krickstein 5-7, 7-6, (7-4), 6-4.

Fourth seed Michael Chang, who won the Canadian Open Sunday and lost to Andre Agassi in an exhibition Monday, defeated Scott Davis 7-5, 4-6, 6-4.

Chang, 13, needed two hours and two minutes to beat Davis. The two met in last year's semi-final with Chang victorious 6-4, 6-4.

Chang led 4-1 in the final set Tuesday before Davis rallied to 4-4. Davis double-faulted to give Chang match point, then Chang returned serve with a deep forehand for the win.

Chang passed Davis nine times while Davis was unable to hit any past Chang. Davis logged 50 unforced errors to Chang's 17.

"I'm happy to get this first match out of the way. I had expected a slow, war court and I guess they've resurfaced it because it's really fast," Chang said.

"Scott is a very dangerous player. He has a good serve. He hits the ball very early. He has a bite, sting on his ball, probably the best around. The difference was Scott missed a little bit more," he said.

Witsken, no. 60, said his strategy in the third set was serve and volley.

"It gave me a chance to rest a little," he said. "I think we were both tired."

Jeff Tarrago also beat a seeded player, defeating No. 8 Milan Srejber 7-6 (7-4), 2-6, 6-2. Derrick Rostagno beat fifth-seeded Rich Reneberg Monday.

In other matches Tuesday, no. 7 Gary Muller defeated Chuck Adams 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; and Brad Pearce beat Jorge Lozano 6-3, 7-6 (7-3).

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In other late matches, Joey Rive beat Peter Lundgren 6-2, 6-4; and Brian Garrow defeated Mark Kaplan 6-2, 6-4.

In an upset, Krickstein took command of the first set in the 2-hour, 37-minute match, leading 4-1 before Witsken won three straight games. In the final game of the first set, Witsken's double fault lost the game.

Witsken lost a break point opportunity in the second set, with Krickstein leading 5-4, when a backhand volley went into the net. In frustration, Witsken hit the ball into the crowd for a code violation.

From then on, Krickstein's errors confounded his play. Krickstein led the third set 4-2, only to watch the lead dwindle to the final game, when he lost the match due to errors.

"It was tough playing the big points," said Krickstein, who is ranked ninth in the world. "I haven't played more than an hour match since the French Open (in May). I got a little tired at 3-2 in the third set."

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♠ A K 8	♠ Q 7 5	♠ Q J 10	♠ A 10 8 2
♥ 7 2	♥ K Q 7 5	♥ A 10 3	♥ 9 5 4
♦ K Q 8	♦ Q 7 6 5 3	♦ A 10 7 6	♦ J 9
♣ 6 4 3 2	♣ 9 8 6	♣ A 10 7 6	♣ J 9

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 ♥ 2 NT Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♠
American game did well in the Sunday Times Invitation Pairs event held at the end of January in London, finishing second and third. In the process of gaining the silver medal, Bobby Goldman of Dallas produced what is likely to be the defensive gem of the year.

We don't like jumping to two no trump with only a single stopper in the enemy suit. However, three no trump was the normal contract and indeed it was reached at the other

tables. No other declarer failed to land the game.

Goldman led his top heart and declarer held up the ace until the third round. Since East had to be kept off lead, if possible, and the club suit had to be developed, declarer crossed to the king of spades and led the queen of clubs. That was covered by the king and ace and West dropped the jack!

Coincided he could score nine tricks without having to rely on the location of the ace of diamonds, declarer reentered dummy with the ace of spades and took the "marked" finesse of the eight of clubs. Goldman retrieved the trick he apparently had sacrificed when he won with the nine and he removed declarer's last spade stopper by exiting in that suit, at the same time setting up the 13th spade in his hand.

Declarer had already lost two tricks in hearts and one in clubs. He had only eight fast tricks and needed a ninth in diamonds for his contract. But when he led a diamond West was able to rise with the ace and cash the long spade for the setting trick. Spectacular!

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY AUGUST 3, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You are able to handle some pretty big matters in a very constructive and adroit fashion as long as you make it a special point to avoid and prevent misunderstandings.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Take every moment during the day of work duties with care and exactness while in the evening you are able to easily have more time finish in your jobs.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Avoid committing yourself during the daytime to some special task that is desired of you and then in the evening you find projects can be done well.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Conditions are at sizes and events in the morning at your home so don't aggravate them further and in the evening more harmony can reign at your residence.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be very careful what you state in any communications during the day for it would likely be misunderstood but tonight clarity of expression occurs.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can make a number of little mistakes in money matters during day time unless you make care but in the evening you see ways to make good budget.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your judgment is apt to be off

during the day so rely upon those with whom you have personal contact and all returns to normal in the evening.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Private concern keeps you fusing and fretting unless you keep poised but in the evening you find your own niche in doing what you like the most.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Don't rely upon a friend who usually give you the best of advice of a personal nature until evening when cobwebs clear away, correct judgment develops.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You would be wise to concentrate upon worldly vocational tasks in a most particular way to avoid criticism, then tonight enjoy being out with friends.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) No matter how intriguing don't go off to some new interest during the daytime but tonight you can well handle a worldly obligation.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Arguing over a debt or account during the day can be a big mistake so put off any discussion till a better time; tonight get views different from your own.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Any meeting with an exacting partner during the day would surely be nonproductive so put off till better time; in the evening get into promises made to another.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY AUGUST 2, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Avoid strutting or doing anything of an impetuous nature now or you will lose the good will an active allegiance of one who has been very close to you in the recent past. Show generosity.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Look early for the best means to make your routine duties pleasant and glow but later you find a communication puts you off course, needs to be sensibly handled.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are able to get some arrangements made that concern pleasures or recreations, then you will be confronted by issue pertaining to money.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Many little duties that have to do with your home can be made to bring more operative skill early; but later avoid trying to force a romantic situation.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get at all those messages and that correspondence awaiting you during the morning and you get much accomplished; then sidestep a secret anxiety.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A good day to pitch right in and get every single business matter in perfect order and then don't be influenced by a scatterbrained friend.

July 1990

Economy

Albania allows foreign investment

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Communist Albania announced Tuesday it will permit joint ventures and foreign economic activity, and would allow limited freedom to stage public demonstrations.

The new economic measures decreed by the "Firm" leadership appeared designed to alleviate economic backwardness, provide technical know-how, improve living conditions and circumvent a ban on foreign credits. It came a day after Tirana and Moscow announced a restoration of diplomatic ties after 29 years.

The decrees were approved by the presidium of the people's assembly and reported by the state news agency ATA only weeks after some 5,000 Albanians, holed up in foreign embassies, were allowed to emigrate.

Albania is the poorest country in Europe and a lone stronghold of Stalinism.

Romania speeds up shareholding programme

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania took its first step towards installing a free market economy Tuesday, passing a privatisation law which aims to turn the country into a nation of shareholders.

After two weeks' debate parliament adopted a law to free enterprises from state control and give managers more responsibility to make decisions.

Every Romanian adult will be offered a free stake in firms earmarked for change.

"This is an important law which takes the first step towards a market economy," Bucharest radio said.

Prime Minister Petre Roman pledged on taking office a month ago to transform Romania's centralised economy into a modern free market based on competition and initiative.

The enterprise law will require most state-owned companies, including farms, to transfer 30 per cent of their assessed value to a newly-created National Privatisation Agency.

An economic analyst from Bucharest's Institute of World Economy said railways, mines, utilities and defence industries would not be affected.

"Under this law state enterprises will turn into commercial companies. It is only the first change and it is likely that the other 70 per cent of a company's assets," he said.

The National Privatisation Agency, set up to promote an embryonic share ownership scheme, will allocate one share worth 5,000 lei (\$250) to every Romanian.

"People will have to hold on to these securities for one year before they can buy and sell," the analyst said.

The government has said it was planning more laws to regulate a full privatisation programme and the analyst said he believed these proposals would include share transaction rules.

"This enterprise law will make directors more responsible for the success of their company. If the value of their firm falls the government may sell off the rest of its equity and that will leave them open to takeovers," he said.

The National Salvation Front which took power after December's uprising and won an overwhelming majority in May elections inherited one of Eastern Europe's most shattered economies.

Under the dictatorship of Nicolae Ceausescu Romanians were half-starved in a drive to pay off the country's \$11 billion external debt.

Brazil announces new reforms to cut red tape

BRASILIA (AP) — The government Tuesday announced a series of reforms to trim financial, legal and administrative red tape in the economy and promote competition in the private sector.

At a presidential palace ceremony, President Fernando Collor de Mello signed into law 20 decrees that ended state control over a wide range of areas, including communications, fuel distribution, transportation, mining and agriculture.

The measures are part of Collor's policy to streamline Brazil's economy, an initiative minister of infrastructure Ozires Silva said was designed to "make the citizen's life easier."

"Through the years, Brazil has become complicated, bureaucracy has grown and we have turned into an inefficient country," Silva said.

The reforms were announced a day after the government said prices jumped 10.79 per cent in July, the highest rate since March when De Mello took office.

The July increase was the highest since De Collor took office March 15. He immediately announced an emergency economic shock programme to try to control inflation of almost 5,000 per cent in the 12 months before he was sworn in.

The measures announced Tuesday include loosened regulations on quality control inspections of food and made it easier for producers and sellers to acquire operating permits for longer periods of time.

Other measures made it easier for farmers to acquire and use pesticides and fertilizers, and deregulated the distribution of fuels and lubricants.

However, controls on domestic fuel prices were not lifted as expected.

The principal function of the state should be to make the public not feel your absence," said agriculture minister Antonio Cabrera. "However, the government has tangled up Brazilians' lives in a disastrous way."

Cabrera said bureaucratic paperwork made licensing and producing anything "from dog food to beer labels" difficult.

As a result, tens of thousands of producers and sellers were continually forced to renew licenses and registers at the agriculture ministry, he said.

Meanwhile Tuesday, Citicorp chairman John Reed urged Brazil to end its year-long suspension of foreign debt interest payments, saying it has caused Latin America's largest country to lose more money than it has saved.

"The money Brazil is saving by not meeting its interest payments is far less than the amount of new investments that would enter the country if these payments were being made," Reed said at a news conference.

Brazil owes its private creditors some \$6 billion since July 1989, when it suspended payments.

Jorge Dauster, Brazil's chief foreign debt negotiator, recently said interest payments have not been made because the country's hard currency reserves were too low. The latest central bank figures put reserves at about \$8 billion.

Penny stock brokerage files for protection

DENVER (AP) — Blinder, Robinson and Co., once the largest penny-stock brokerage in the world, has filed for protection from its creditors while it reorganises under chapter 11 of the federal bankruptcy laws.

Blinder, Robinson said in a statement that it has ceased to do business as a brokerage. It said it intends to transfer its 250,000 customer accounts and brokerage operations to another, unidentified brokerage firm.

Founder and president Meyer Blinder was not immediately available for comment.

Robert Davenport, head of the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) regional office in Denver, said the SEC has been aware of Blinder, Robinson's teetering finances in recent weeks, but did not know of the bankruptcy until Tuesday.

Once the largest penny-stock firm in the world, Blinder, Robinson had shrunk to one-third its former size amid investigations by federal regulators and investor lawsuits. It recorded a loss of \$14.8 million in 1988 and \$11.7 million in 1989.

Penny stocks are low cost, high risk securities, usually trading for less than \$3 per share. They are not listed on stock exchanges and typically are used to raise capital for new or small companies.

According to a filing made with the SEC, Blinder, Robinson owed its customers \$4.8 million in cash and other brokerage firms \$400,000. The brokerage also owed customers and other brokerage firms \$70 million in securities, the filing said.

Traders expect UAE, Kuwait to turn down oil taps this month

DUBAI (R) — Chronic quota-busters Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were expected to turn down their crude oil taps from Wednesday to meet new output limits agreed at last week's OPEC meeting dominated by Iraq.

"Kuwait and the UAE will definitely reduce their output in August to 1.5 million barrels per day (b/d) each. They have no other choice," a Gulf-based Western oil trader said Wednesday.

The two Gulf Arab producers, who have traditionally flouted OPEC rules in the past agreed last month to curb drastically their output after regional superpower, Iraq, threatened unspecified action against them if they continued undermining oil prices.

They renewed their pledges to cut back after an Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meeting in Geneva last week decreed a 17 per cent rise in the group's minimum reference price to \$21 a barrel.

Oil industry executives said the cuts would help soak up some 800,000 b/d from the saturated market.

Gulf oil industry sources said that in order to cut output to its 1.5 million b/d quota, Kuwait would have to stop most spot crude sales, reduce refinery throughput, and buy Iranian crude in Europe for its petrol retail system on the continent.

To meet the UAE's newly allocated 1.5 million b/d limit, Abu Dhabi, the biggest producer in the UAE federation, will go ahead with previously announced plans to slash up to 30 per cent from its contract sales volumes in August, the sources said.

In July the UAE was seen producing around 1.95 million b/d and Kuwait 1.8 million, according to a Reuters output survey.

Crude oil prices rose over \$1.5 per barrel since Iraq launched its verbal attacks two weeks ago and moved thousands of troops up to its border with Kuwait. The Middle East benchmark crude Dubai changed hands at \$17.30 per barrel Wednesday, up from \$15.80 two weeks ago.

OPEC officials and oil market analysts agree that if all OPEC states stick to their quotas, oil prices might reach OPEC's new price target by the end of the year.

The majority of OPEC's 13 members have estimated demand on the group's crude during the fourth quarter at over 25 million b/d compared with the new output ceiling of nearly 22.5 million.

Although all OPEC members, including Kuwait and the UAE, have pledged to adhere to their limits, some Gulf-based sources

FDIC comes under stress

WASHINGTON (AP) — The fund insuring Americans' \$2.5 trillion in commercial bank deposits is under considerable stress and could suffer its third consecutive loss this year, a top regulator has said.

L. William Seidman, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC), said "it would not be unreasonable" to predict a \$2 billion loss, reducing the fund to around \$11 billion.

It lost \$851 million in 1989 and \$4.34 billion in 1988 as bank failures soared to post-depression highs.

Those losses reduced insurance backing of the nation's 12,500 banks to 70 cents per \$100 of deposits. "The lowest point in modern history," Seidman said.

With another loss this year, coverage could slip to 50 cents or 60 cents per \$100.

Seidman indicated the FDIC board may consider an emergency hike in insurance premiums paid by banks. Those premiums, as provided by last year's savings and loan bill, are already increasing, from 8.3 cents per \$100 of deposits in 1989 to 12 cents this year and 15 cents next year.

However, the board has the power to raise them as high as 22.5 cents next year. Each one-cent increase brings the fund about \$250 million.

Seidman said his revised assessment of the insurance fund was based on a general deterioration of the value of commercial real estate held by banks.

Seidman's remarks come amid growing congressional furor over the mounting taxpayer bill to bail out the savings and loan industry. Monday, Seidman had said another agency be heads, the Resolution Trust Corp., would need \$80 billion to \$100 billion in 1991 to protect depositors of failed thrifts.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES				
Wednesday, August 1, 1990				
Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell	French franc	123.6 124.3
U.S. dollar	638.0	662.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	449.9 452.6
Pound Sterling	1222.0	1230.3	Dutch guilder	367.5 369.7
Deutsche mark	414.0	416.5	Swedish crown	113.2 113.9
Swiss franc	487.6	490.5	Italian lire (for 100)	26.6 26.9
			Belgian franc (for 10)	201.5 202.7

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.8580/90	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1510/15	Canadian dollar
	1.5890/95	Deutsche marks
	1.7900/10	Dutch guilders
	1.3515/25	Swiss francs
	32.63/68	Belgian francs
	5.3240/90	French francs
	1163/1164	Italian lire
	146.10/15	Japanese yen
	5.8125/75	Swedish crowns
	6.1450/1500	Norwegian crowns
	6.0645/95	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	370.50/90	U.S. dollars

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The Projects Directorate/Ministry of Education announces the issuing of the following tender which is part of the 7th Education project No. 2890 - JO, sponsored by the World Bank-

Tender's No.	Title	Fees JD.
14/90	Photo-copiers	5,000

Interested bidders are invited to collect tender's document from Procurement Division at the Projects Directorate/Ministry of Education starting July 31st, 1990 against the payment of the above fees.

Closing date will be 10.00 a.m. of September 13th, 1990.

Head of Special Tenders Committee

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The villa, located at Um Al Summaq Al Shamali, consists of 6 bedrooms, a study room, 3 spacious halls, verandas, terrace, garages with a separate garden, telephone, central heating, interior and exterior decors. Total building area is 460 square metres.

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The following new cars, two Isuzu Trooper, "UBS" "DELUX" 4 x 4 short chassis.

Description: Model 1989; Air conditioned; Power Steering; Velvet Seats; Colour:- White. Dark Blue; Customs Duty Unpaid.

Two Isuzu Trooper "UBS" standard 4 x 4 short chassis colour burgundy. Model 1989. Customs duty paid. All cars are brand new.

For more info. pls. contact tel. 672495 - 672543 - 678775.

Jordan Times

Tel: 667171

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE ABDUL HAMID SHARAF SCHOOL in Swaffiyeh would like to announce the following:

1) Construction of the new building has begun.

2) Registration for the 1990-91 Academic year will begin on Monday, August 6 and continue until August 18.

3) The school needs teachers for:

Secondary chemistry

Secondary geography and history

Applicants must have at least a Bachelor's Degree and experience at the secondary level.

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Adel Imam, Yuera

The Devil's Island

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Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

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PLAZA

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Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 10:45 p.m.

Liberian troops counter attack Doe vows to fight to death

MONROVIA (AP) — One day after hundreds of refugees were massacred in a church sanctuary, government troops staged a surprise counterattack on rebel forces and recaptured sections of Monrovia's city centre.

President Samuel Doe's troops were accused of killing up to 600 civilians Monday in a Lutheran Church compound where they had sought refuge from the bloody civil war. Doe denied the allegations, saying rebels dressed as soldiers committed Monday's slaughter. Survivors and witnesses said the killers were government soldiers.

A communiqué issued by the European humanitarian group Medicins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Paris said government troops fired on a team of MSF doctors who went to the aid of massacre victims. The spokesman said the team performed more than 30 operations despite threats against their lives by soldiers.

The communiqué called for foreign governments to act to guarantee the safety of hospitals,

an appeal MSF and others have made on several previous occasions with no success.

The United States, with fighting raging around its Monrovia embassy, said it was considering calling for a United Nations peacekeeping force to intervene in the West African nation's 7-month-old tribal war.

State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher said there were no plans to evacuate the 400 Americans remaining in Liberia despite a deterioration in the security situation. A U.S. naval flotilla has been offshore for weeks in case evacuation is required.

Assistant Secretary of State Herman Cohen said bullets ricocheted off several U.S. buildings at the height of Tuesday's fighting around the diplomatic enclave, but no one was hurt.

"None of the combatants have targeted our people," he said.

Doe, whom rebels accuse of corruption and brutal suppression of the opposition, made his first public statement since rebels

reached the city's suburbs more than a month ago. He vowed in a telephone interview with the British Broadcasting Corp. to "fight until the last soldiers in the Liberian army die."

Doe spoke from the fortified Israeli-built presidential mansion that has been under siege by rebel forces led by Prince Johnson.

About 500 government troops emerged Tuesday from Barclay Training Centre, the main barracks in the capital, surprising the scattered rebel troops and recapturing several blocks of downtown streets, witnesses said.

Doe's soldiers, most of them members of his Krahn tribe, advanced behind their sole remaining tank two strategic bridges leading from downtown Monrovia to Bushrod Island, site of the capital's port, oil storage depot and launching point of the rebel invasion of the city.

In seesaw battles with rebels led by Johnson, government forces recaptured the finance and defence ministries and fought their way through the main shop-

ping district. The counterattack led to heavy fighting in the embassy enclave of Mamba Point, which the rebels took Monday. Overall control of the area remained unclear.

A high-rise building in the city centre suspected of being a rebel observation point was set afire with a salvo from the government's multiple rocket-launcher, witnesses reported.

The downtown streets, filled for several days with civilians searching for food, suddenly emptied. Shops, offices and ministries remained closed.

Most of Monrovia's 500,000 inhabitants have been without food, running water or electricity in July.

Doe said in the interview that he was "not prepared to hand Liberia over to criminals." This apparently referred to embezzlement charges against another rebel leader, Charles Taylor, who fled Liberia after he was accused of stealing about \$1 million from state coffers while he headed the government procurement agency.



Liberian rebels evacuate an injured comrade during fighting outside Monrovia.

Khmer Rouge vows to fight on

BANGKOK (R) — The Khmer Rouge regime urged its guerrillas to fight on in Cambodia and said the United States was inflaming the conflict with its latest policy shift.

The China-backed group's clandestine radio station, monitored in Bangkok, said: "We urge our colleagues to step up their fighting to liberate our country from Vietnam."

The guerrillas, who have fought the Vietnamese since they invaded in 1978 to oust the

Khmer Rouge regime, have stepped up attacks on military and civilian targets in recent months.

"The U.S. is apparently igniting the war in Cambodia by changing its policy. We will not bow to any obstacle. Even if no one helps us we will fight until we achieve our aim," it said.

Last month, Washington announced it was ending its diplomatic support for the Khmer Rouge-led guerrilla coalition and would talk directly with Vietnam to try to halt the conflict and

prevent the Khmer Rouge fighting their way back to power.

The U.S. policy shift showed Washington, "intended to help Vietnam occupy Cambodia," the guerrilla broadcast said.

The broadcast accused the United States of ingratitude, saying without the guerrilla struggle after the Vietnamese invasion, South East Asia's non-Communist countries "would have faced Vietnamese aggression."

China marks Army Day

PEKING (R) — Chinese leaders and official newspapers celebrated "Army Day" Wednesday with an outpouring of praise for the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and its crushing of pro-democracy demonstrations last year.

The celebrations were, however, restricted to speeches, newspaper commentaries and receptions.

Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin, making his first Army Day speech since becoming head of the party Central Military Commission in April, stressed the army's role in protecting communism.

"Especially last year when the life of the party and nation was threatened, officers and men of the PLA used their hot blood and loyalty to defend the party and Socialist system," Jiang said.

Jiang, a 64-year-old technocrat with no military background, also praised the role of his mentor, senior leader Deng Xiaoping, who promoted him to party leader after the army put down pro-democracy protests in June 1989.

Deng will be 86 this month. Western diplomats said Jiang depended on his support and the army's backing for his survival.

"Socialist modernisation needs a stable environment so we must keep a strong army and build a firm national defence," Jiang said in a speech published by the army newspaper Liberation Daily. Excerpts were also televised Tuesday.

The Peking garrison, which took part in last year's crackdown, was praised in the official Peking Evening News for its selfless devotion to the people.

Apart from clearing rubbish, planting trees and delivering vegetables and coal, the soldiers of Peking had donated 240,000 yuan (\$51,000) to next month's Asian Games, the newspaper said.

Western diplomats, who turned down official invitations to join celebrations of the PLA's 63rd birthday, said that beneath the rhetoric the armed forces were facing morale problems.

Many Chinese people openly voice their hatred of the army, in particular its leaders, for the violent way it ended last year's protests.

More than 200 people were killed, according to the official tally. Diplomats and human rights organisations estimate that more than 1,000 died.

Watches issued to soldiers by the Peking party branch and government to commemorate the "crushing of the rebellion" can be bought in street markets.

"The soldiers sold them to us," said one trader. A helmeted soldier is drawn in profile on the watch face.

Fearing disunity within the army, the party has launched a tidal wave of propaganda at the 3.5 million-strong PLA. Political studies have taken priority over training.

Georgia becomes second republic to defy Kremlin

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Republic of Georgia followed neighbouring Armenia Wednesday in rejecting — at least temporarily — President Mikhail Gorbachev's decree to confiscate weapons from illegally armed groups.

The TASS news agency quoted Communist Party chief Givi Gumbaridze as saying the decree would not be implemented before the republic's parliament resumes work on Aug. 17.

It quoted him as saying the confiscation of illegal weapons and ammunition could interfere with public discussions of draft laws on electoral reforms made public Wednesday. TASS did not elaborate.

Publication of the draft laws also brought an end to six days of picketing at the key railway junction of Samtredia, the independent news agency Postfactum re-

ported. Georgian activists had blocked the railway, halting virtually all trains into the southern republic, to press demands for fair, multi-party elections scheduled for October.

Lawmakers in Armenia voted Monday night to defy Gorbachev's order that illegally armed groups throughout the Soviet Union turn in their weapons and disarm, the Armenian National Movement said.

Spokesman Ovanes Muradian said the Armenian parliament decided the July 25 order "contradicts the natural right of the Armenian people for self-defence."

It also suspended Gorbachev's decree in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, a mostly Armenian enclave inside the neighbouring republic of Azerbaijan.

Canadian town rejects land deal with Mohawks

OKA, Quebec (AP) — The city council here will not sell a disputed piece of land destined for a Mohawk reservation to the federal government until Indian barricades are dismantled.

"We won't sign until the blockades come down," said Mayor Jean Ouellette, minutes after the conclusion Tuesday of a stormy town meeting.

Mohawks have been manning barricades for months to stop a golf course expansion onto what they say is ancestral land. On July 11, police stormed the barricades and a shooting battle erupted that killed a provincial police officer. It is not clear whether the officer was killed by Indians or fellow

police.

Police were not able to dislodge the Indian barricades, but since the gunbattle they have blockaded the entrances to the reservation. Indians, manning their own fortified barricade, accuse the police of limiting the amount of food brought into the reservation.

The federal government has tried to resolve the standoff with an offer to pay Oka \$1.34 million for 27 hectares (67 acres) of land that had been slated to be added to the local golf course. Another \$2.5 million had been offered to compensate the town for lost business opportunities.

After 100 days of Chamorro rule problems still loom as large as ever

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — With a frozen smile, President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro faced the TV camera from her rocking chair, doing her bit to bolster her government's image.

"If there's no criticism, there's no democracy," said the president. It was one of her typically simple answers to the complexity of Nicaragua, where even some who thought she could save the country are turning cold on her leadership.

After 100 days in power, during which the bases of Nicaragua's recovery and reconciliation were to have been laid, the problems loom as large as ever. Chamorro's pro-U.S. government faces a huge battle against inflation. There are also claims the government has entered secret pacts to share power with the strong and hostile Sandinistas, whom Chamorro's coalition defeated in February elections.

In the television interview, Chamorro used her homey, gentle style, to once again ask Nicaraguans to have faith in her. "I have been (in power) for only three months and I have six years to go," she said. "My gov-

ernment plan will be fulfilled and we will leave Nicaragua in complete democracy."

The interview, and two others with Minister of the Presidency Antonio Lacayo and Army Chief Gen. Humberto Ortega, were unscheduled and unannounced, thus missed by many. It was another sign the young government is still learning the nuts and bolts of ruling.

Failed expectations that Chamorro would quickly solve the country's problems are leaving her government vulnerable to power grabs.

It was her own officials, particularly Central Bank President Francisco Mayorga, who built expectations about a magical 100 days in which the new administration would collar inflation. The 100 days end Friday.

Nicaragua's currency, the cordoba, has been devalued 25 times since Chamorro took over the presidency on April 25. The government's ending of price controls and subsidies has sent the price of staples and basic services sky-high.

The central bank, Nicaragua's Federal Reserve, refused to make

its figures on inflation public. But Vistazo Economico, a weekly economic fact sheet, said that based on its information from the Nicaraguan Institute of Statistics and Census the accumulated rate of inflation from Jan. 1 to June 30 was 506.39 per cent.

It said inflation from April 25 to June 30 was 224 per cent and July's rate was running about 80 per cent.

Meanwhile, Chamorro's coalition is tortured by fractiousness. The 14 parties range from Communists to the far right.

The leftist Sandinistas remain by far the single largest party in the country. They control key labour unions, the army and the police, and are making headway on their threat to "rule from below."

The Sandinistas have seized on inflation as an excuse for two politically motivated major strikes, the last of which, in July, nearly turned into a civil war and showed yet again that they can mobilise their supporters at will.

"For three days there was no government here," a senior South American diplomat said of the last strike. Armed Sandinista

Filipino rebels kill police chief, 3 children

MANILA (Agencies) — Communist rebels killed a central Philippines police chief and three of his children in an ambush, the military said Wednesday.

A military report said an undetermined number of New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas ambushed Police Lt. Toribio Mendoza, police chief of Sebaste town on Panay Island, 336 kilometres south of Manila, as he was driving a jeep at dawn Tuesday.

The report said Mendoza was transferring two detainees from a village jail to Sebaste when he was attacked. He was accompanied by four of his children.

It said Mendoza and three of his children died on the spot and his fourth child and the two prisoners were injured and rushed to a hospital. The report did not give the ages of the police chief's children.

On Monday, soldiers raided a rebel camp in the mountains of Ibalay town, 24 kilometres north of Sebaste, but found it abandoned.

A military report said the soldiers found three huts that can accommodate 40 guerrillas.

On Negros Island, a three-day ceasefire began Wednesday to pave the way for the release of U.S. Peace Corps volunteer Timothy Swanson and Japanese aid worker Fumio Mizuno.

Swanson was kidnapped on June 13 and Mizuno was abducted on May 29. Rebels said they would release their captives Thursday.

The rebels have been waging a

De Klerk, Mandela hold cordial talks

PRETORIA (R) — Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela said Wednesday he had held cordial talks with South African President F.W. de Klerk aimed at solving a dispute over charges that his Communist allies were planning an armed insurrection.

De Klerk had called the meeting to hear Mandela's reply to his request that Communist Party leader Joe Slovo be dropped from the African National Congress's (ANC) negotiating team at major political talks.

These talks are aimed at removing obstacles to full-scale negotiations on a post-apartheid, non-racial constitution.

As he left for Johannesburg, Mandela, who is ANC deputy president, declined to say whether the issue had been resolved at his meeting with de Klerk. He promised to make a full statement later Wednesday.

"All that I want to say at the present moment is that I met the state president and the discussions took a very cordial spirit," he said.

The meeting lasted more than three hours — 45 minutes longer than scheduled — at de Klerk's office and was believed to have included senior government ministers.

Security police have accused the Communist Party of plotting to seize power behind the back of the ANC, its ally throughout decades of anti-apartheid struggle.

Mandela and Slovo have scornfully dismissed the charges as "red scare" propaganda. But de Klerk is said to believe that the information provided by his intelligence services casts doubts on the Communists' integrity as peaceful negotiators.

The president summoned Mandela last week to present him with his evidence and urged him to drop Slovo from the ANC team due to meet the government on Aug. 6 for more "talks about talks," on ending apartheid.

It has since emerged that a "comrade Joe" referred to in Communist Party minutes of a key meeting of alleged conspirators was not Slovo. His passport shows he was in Zambia at the time.

The overall "plot," called Operation Vula, dated back to 1987 and appeared to be part of a joint ANC-Communist Party strategy to maintain underground activities in case negotiations failed.

Meanwhile two explosions apparently caused by bombs rocked a store in Kempton Park 24 kilometres east of Johannesburg Tuesday night, but there were no injuries, police said.

Soviets launch new crew for Mir

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union launched a new two-man crew to the orbiting Mir space station Wednesday, Moscow Radio said.

Reporting directly from the Baikonur launching pad at 0934 GMT, the radio said there had been no problems with the lift-off. The Soyuz-TM10 spacecraft would dock with Mir on Friday afternoon, it added.

The official Soviet News Agency TASS said later that the launch, the seventh to the orbiting station, had taken place as scheduled from Baikonur in the southern republic of Kazakhstan.

Air Force Lieutenant-Colonel Gennady Manakov is commander of the mission, his first in space. Manakov, 40, is a qualified engineer from Orenburg in the southern Ural Mountains. Gennady Strekalov, the flight engineer, has been in space three times and survived a fire on the launch pad in 1983.

The two men are due to spend 132 days in orbit experimenting with microelectronics, producing high-quality crystals and making two space walks. They will replace Anatoly Solovyov and Alexander Balandin, who will have spent six months in space if they return to earth on schedule on Aug. 9.

Mir, in orbit since February 1986, is the core of a complex including the spacecraft Soyuz-TM9 and Modules Kvant, Kvant-2 and Kristall. But in the past few months it has been dogged by technical problems.

Two weeks ago Solovyov and Balandin spent several hours in space repairing loose insulation on the Soyuz and last Thursday they took another spacewalk to close a faulty hatch on Kvant-2.

Another team, including a Japanese cosmonaut, is to visit Mir by December, the Soviet Armed Forces daily Krasnaya Zvezda said Tuesday.

Richard Widmark hospitalised

ROXBURY, Connecticut (AP) — Actor Richard Widmark was in satisfactory condition at New Milford Hospital, recovering from leg injuries suffered in a weekend lawn-mower accident, a hospital spokesman said. "He picked a fight with his lawn mower," said Hank Fenberg, Widmark's 75, was taken to the hospital and underwent surgery on his lower left leg and foot, said Fenberg. He did not know the extent of injuries or other details of the accident. Widmark has owned a home in Roxbury for years. He has appeared in more than 90 films, including Judgement at Nuremberg, How the West Was Won and Murder on the Orient Express.

U.S. budget chief gets 100 stitches after fall

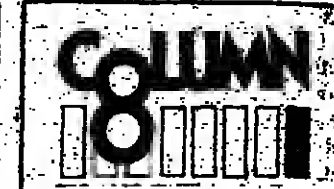
WASHINGTON (R) — White House budget chief Richard Darman slipped on wet stairs at a McDonald's restaurant and needed 100 stitches in his face, a spokeswoman said Monday. "He's fine," the spokeswoman said. "He's here at work." She said Darman fell at the restaurant Saturday, then drove himself to a Washington hospital for treatment. She also said he made a joke of the injuries. Referring to the budget negotiations, which are attempting to cut the \$100-billion U.S. federal deficit, he told the spokeswoman: "They said cut and I cut."

Lacayo tried to portray the resolution of the strike as a moral victory.

Ortega, who commanded the military during the Sandinistas' rule, has been skillfully playing both sides.

He has pledged to help Chamorro's government while saying his soldiers will never fire upon the people.

His continued presence as army chief is a major irritant to Chamorro supporters.



Murder in U.S. heads for record high

WASHINGTON (AP) — The murder toll in the United States is headed toward a record high this year, attributable mainly to drug-related crime, the Senate was told Tuesday. "If this pace continues — and there is every reason to believe it will — 1990 will be the bloodiest year in American history," said Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Joseph Biden.

The committee issued a forecast of 23,220 murders in America this year at the present rate. That is 2,000 or 8 per cent more than the 1989 toll. The total would also top the previous record high of 23,040 murders in 1980.

Supplies of cocaine in the nation's major cities have contributed to the carnage, causing drug pushers to fight each other for turf, the committee said. It also blamed the proliferation of assault rifles. "These firearms have become the weapons of choice for drug dealers and the weapons of doom for law enforcement personnel," said a report prepared by the panel.

It said a third cause is a fresh wave of teenagers, the offspring of the so-called baby boomers, entering the high-crime years. The projected toll would make 1990 the third straight year of increasing murders in the United States.

UB40 deported from Seychelles

VICTORIA, Seychelles (R) — Seven members of the British pop band UB40 were deported from the Seychelles Islands and police had to intervene to prevent an airport brawl with a photographer. The five musicians and two technicians, ordered to leave after being arrested on suspicion of possessing cannabis, scuffled with a British photographer trying to take their picture as they boarded an Air France flight to Paris. The group, who gave a concert in the Indian Ocean islands last Saturday, were detained Monday after police raided their hotel rooms.

Pilot lands plane on suburban street

MELBOURNE (R) — A pilot dodged lunchtime traffic and street lights to make an emergency landing on a suburban street in the Australian city of Melbourne.

"I came under the power lines, weaved around the light poles, knocked down a 'no parking' sign — but after that it was a fairly normal landing," pilot Harry Berger told reporters. Berger brought his Cessna Centurion in safely after one of its two engines failed at 800 metres above Wellington Road in the suburb of Mulgrave. Berger, 63, and his 73-year-old passenger Josephine Crook were unhurt. "It was a pretty extraordinary piece of flying. He had to dodge poles and traffic and he made it safely," said Australian Civil Aviation Authority spokesman Rex Mitchell. The aircraft was dismantled at the roadside by air safety investigators and taken to a local airfield.

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Special Edition



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»

Volume 15 Number 4456

AMMAN FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 1990, MUHARRAM 12, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Iraqis in full control of Kuwait

Provisional government lashes out at Sabah family

Sheikh Jaber in Saudi Arabia, Crown Prince vows resistance

Iraq orders full mobilisation, warns against foreign intervention

King stresses need to contain crisis within Arab framework

Deputies, public figures cite need to share in oil wealth

Kuwait calls for Arab action at foreign ministers' Cairo meeting

Security Council condemns attack, calls on Iraq to withdraw

Iraqi action sparks international outcry, calls for dialogue

Oil, dollar and gold soar in frenzied international markets

Syria puts armed forces on alert, Israel perceives 'Iraqi threat'

Soviets suspend arms to Iraq, superpowers plan joint statement

Man in the street cautious about foreign intervention

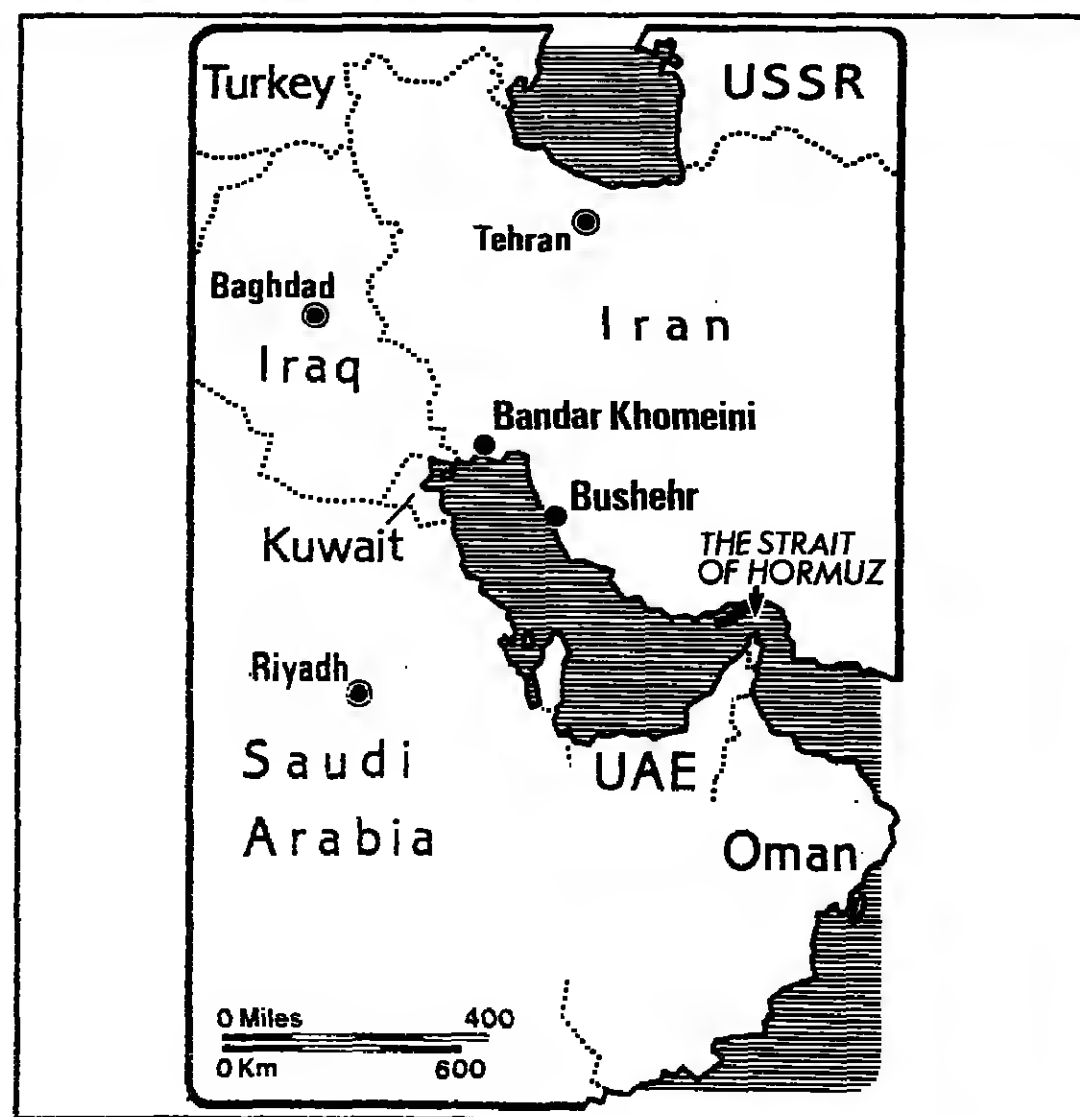
Sheikh Fahd among estimated 200 casualties in palace defence

U.S. freezes Iraqi and Kuwaiti assets, orders battleships into Indian Ocean

How a crisis over oil prices and production turned into take-over

Iraq says it will withdraw from Kuwait in a matter of days or weeks

Kuwaitis visiting Jordan express shock and surprise



Syria puts its army on alert

BEIRUT (R) — Syria put its army on high alert on Thursday after its long-standing foe Iraq invaded Kuwait, pro-Syrian security sources in Lebanon and travellers from Damascus said.

"Divisions of the Syrian army were put on high alert in Syria in the wake of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Syria cancelled all leaves and vacations of its soldiers in all military sectors," the sources told Reuters.

Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad called for an emergency Arab summit to deal with the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait.

In Damascus, Syrian officials said Assad chaired a meeting of the ruling coalition few hours after the invasion.

The officials gave no details but diplomats described the meeting as important and said it would centre on the invasion.

The official Syrian news agency SANA said Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa, in Cairo for an Islamic ministers conference, met the head of Kuwait's delegation to the meeting to discuss the invasion.

It said Sharaa also met the foreign ministers of Egypt and Saudi Arabia for similar talks.

Israel perceives 'Iraqi threat'

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Thursday that Israel was ready to meet any "military threat" posed by Iraq but would not take action unless attacked.

Arens contended Iraq's invasion of Kuwait proved Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was "a threat to the entire world."

Other officials said Iraq's invasion, following threats against Kuwait, made even more serious Iraq's warning to respond with chemical weapons to an Israeli nuclear attack on Iraq or other Arab states.

"Once he has made good on one (threat) you can't ignore the others," said Yossi Olmert, director of the government press office.

Israel issued an official statement condemning the Iraqi invasion of its Gulf neighbour as a "blatant act of aggression," and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was said to be watching the situation in Kuwait carefully.

Arens, a leading member of Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc, said in an interview with NBC television that Iraq might not stop with Kuwait.

"Iraq will be looking around for other targets," he said. "Fortunately we are prepared and strong, and I think we can deter him."

He added in a separate interview on the ABC network: "There will be an Israeli response only if Iraq takes aggressive action against Israel."

Avi Pazner, a spokesman for

Shamir, also said, "Israel doesn't need to take an active stand in this conflict now."

However, a government official who briefed reporters on the basis of anonymity said that Iraq was aware of "red lines" that could not be crossed without bringing an Israeli military response.

Labour Party Leader Shimon Peres said Israel should tell Iraq, "Israel isn't Iran and Israel isn't Kuwait, and if (it) tries to attack us, (it) will get what he deserves."

W. Bank reaction

In the occupied West bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinians listened anxiously to radios Thursday for news of Kuwait, where an estimated 300,000 Palestinians are foreign workers.

Radwan Abu Ayyash, head of the Arab Journalists Association, said most Palestinians viewed Iraq's attack as misdirected. "Arms should not be used against Arabs, only against enemies of Arabs," he said.

Saeed Erekat, a political science professor at the Al Najah University in the West Bank, noted that many Palestinians had admired Iraq for its warnings to Israel.

He said he understood Israel's worry about Iraq since Iraq was changing the balance of power in the Middle East.

"I think Saddam is drawing a new map of the Arab World," he said.

Iran calls for Iraqi withdrawal

TEHRAN (R) — Iran, which fought an eight-year war with Iraq, Thursday condemned Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait.

A Foreign Ministry statement read on Iranian television demanded an immediate Iraqi withdrawal.

It said the invasion could open the way for big power intervention in the region.

Kuwait was one of Baghdad's staunchest backers during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Earlier Thursday, President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani chaired a meeting of the National Security Council to discuss the invasion.

Tehran Radio said "appropriate decisions, were made" at the meeting which was attended by top military commanders. It did not elaborate.

"The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, rejecting any resort to force as a solution to regional conflicts, considers Iraq's military action against Kuwait at variance with stability

and security in the sensitive region of the 'Persian' Gulf," the statement said.

It said the invasion could "prepare grounds for the presence of expansionist foreign powers," in the region.

Iran demanded "the immediate return of Iraqi forces behind internationally recognised borders and resolution of differences in a peaceful manner."

Iran officially remains at war with Iraq although fighting stopped two years ago under a ceasefire brokered by the United Nations.

Both Tehran and Baghdad said chances of a final settlement improved after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein wrote a letter to the Iranian leadership in May to propose direct peace talks.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said Kuwait's top envoy in Tehran met Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Sheikholeslam and briefed him on the attack. It gave no details.

Kuwait demands

(Continued from page 3)

league members, in the event of military aggression against any of them, to "take, individually and collectively, all steps available, including the use of armed force, to repel the aggression and restore security and peace."

Lebanese Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Salim Al Hoss told reporters his country supported Kuwait and urged that the league condemn the invasion and demand the immediate withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. In remarks sharply critical of the invasion, Hoss said:

"We do not see any justification for what happened, whatever the arguments and pretexts," he said.

The Arab ministers were in Cairo to attend the Organisation of Islamic Conference's, (OIC) foreign ministers meeting. The 22 members of the Arab League are

all members of the Islamic conference.

The league session was chaired by Farouk Qaddoumi, director of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) political department. The PLO is current chairman of the 45-year-old league.

Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, also in Cairo for the Islamic conference, met Thursday morning with representatives of other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to discuss the Iraqi invasion. Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid participated although his country is not a GCC member.

The GCC comprises Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

Reporters saw several delegates leaving the session to telephone their capitals and then returning to the conference hall.

Kuwait provisional government issues first communique, lashes out at Sabah regime

AMMAN — The provisional government of Kuwait, which assumed power following the Iraqi army's takeover of the country, on Thursday issued a communique in which it assailed the Sabah government and explained the situation leading up to the takeover.

The new government is believed to be headed by former Parliament Speaker Ahmad Sa'adoun and former deputy Ahmad Al Khatib and Nasser Al Ahmad Sabah (who is a brother of the deposed emir and a former minister of information who has been at loggerheads with his brothers).

Following are major excerpts from the communique, which was carried by the Iraqi News Agency yesterday:

For tens of years and since the dawn of freedom and independence in our Arab land, the Kuwaitis have been looking forward to freedom and have been waiting for the opportunity to contribute towards achieving the Arabs' goals of unity, liberation and renaissance, sharing their Arab brethren's aspirations in restoring the usurped rights in Palestine.

The Kuwaitis were hoping that the independence we achieved after a tiresome struggle and great sacrifices of the nationalist Kuwaitis, would herald the beginning to achieving their hopes and aspirations.

However, the foreign imperialists ruled the country, looted its wealth and humiliated its people before the independence, either directly or indirectly, through their allies — some of the rulers from Al Sabah family who imposed their dictatorship on Kuwait.

The formulas imposed on the country to hide facts did not pay off, and were soon exposed by the Kuwaiti people, because they were void of any real content and were merely a false cover for the dynastic regime.

The people have found out that

this clique was determined to seize power, loot the country's wealth in complicity with a few, isolated mercenaries, counting in the first place on foreign powers.

These facts have been proved and enhanced by successive experiences. The fabrication of elections, the imposition of their will, the persecution of patriots were the dominating characteristics of Al Sabah regime and their quislings.

When the people were able to impose their free will in the (mid-eighties) parliamentary elections, which brought about a national block of parliamentarians who exposed the tyrant regime and its suspect policies and malpractices that gobbled up the country's wealth and linked it with the imperialist interests and circles, and distributed the people's wealth to their relatives and kins, the government could not help hearing the people's opinion and the voices of the sincere Kuwaiti people. The ruling family disregarded the constitution dissolved parliament, imposed a state of terror, confined freedom and deprived people of their means of livelihood.

Dear Citizens of Kuwait,

This tyrant oppressive clique and its constitution, and allies have been acting as servants for the foreigners before independence and have remained so after independence.

This clique has linked all our interests with foreign interests and even with the well-known Zionist interests; it has publicly looted the country's wealth and distributed it among its men and allies to spend on their desires and lust, thus oiling the reputation of the Kuwaiti people and its Islamic Arab morals and values.

These rulers have deposited billions of our wealth in foreign banks and have linked our investments with the interests of Zionist circles. Needless to say that all the courageous Kuwaiti people know that several members of the Sabah family, such as Sabah Ahmad Al Jaber (the emir), were the closest allies and friends of the imperialists, not only in our country, but also throughout the Arab Nation. They coordinated with the imperialists and took part in plotting against the Arab Nation and its noble cause.

The latest of their conspiracies was directed against Iraq, the Arab country which has defended the Eastern flank of the Arab Nation.

The political, economic, social and security crisis which our nation is passing through is not but a planned conspiracy, carried out by that oppressive clique and the mercenaries in their service, with the aim of weakening Kuwait, making it a feeble entity, and a continuous target for foreign forces.

This was aimed at raising the concerns and fears of people,

thus distracting them from criticising the corruption and malpractices of the government which wanted them to surrender their will to it.

The conspiracy has failed, since the Kuwaiti people will not accept these ill-harboured intentions and will not accept the injustices to continue forever.

The Kuwaiti people will not accept to leave their country an easy prey to the foreigners and a place for the corrupted and their mercenaries to tamper with.

The people have voiced their opinion by all forms of rejection and legitimate denunciation.

Elections demonstrated the Kuwaiti people's will, but the tyrant rulers have resorted again to terror and oppression and fabrication of facts by forming the farcical "national council" which has rejected and received with disgust on the part of the people.

Enough is enough. Our people are no longer able to endure any further oppression, corruption, conspiracies and falsehoods. The nationalist powers, which rejected oppression, tyranny, corruption and have resisted the regime which is attached to the imperialist and Zionist circles, have decided to assume power and to overthrow the Sabah government.

We declare the overthrow of Jaber Ahmad Jaber and Saad Abdullah Salem and the mercenaries in their pay from all their posts and we declare the dissolution of the national council and the formation of a free government in Kuwait.

This will be a provisional government to take charge of all responsibilities and legislative

and executive authorities in the country during the transitional period.

The new government will ensure stability in Kuwait and pave the way for free parliamentary elections. The elections will choose a council that will represent the people and decide on the form of the new regime in the country.

The new Kuwaiti government will first and foremost deal with its duties and responsibilities and it will do its best to remove all damage done by the former regime against Iraq and the Iraqi people. It will also deal promptly with the border issue with Iraq on the basis of mutual interest and in a bid to safeguard the higher national interest.

As of today's new era begins in Kuwait, an era of sincere and serious work to establish freedom, democracy, justice and prosperity for the Kuwaiti society. Today we begin the serious task of contributing towards serving the causes of the Arab World and destiny.

The transitional free government of Kuwait calls on you to extend support for the uprising carried out by your free brothers.

The government assures the foreign citizens living in the country of its utmost keenness on protecting their rights and interests, their dignity and security, and calls on them to exercise self restraint and to abide by the instructions and directives issued by the new government.

The transitional free government of Kuwait also warns that it will strike with an iron hand against all those elements trying to tamper with the country's

security and stability or trying to help implement enemy plots.

The new transitional free government of Kuwait declares its full commitment to all treaties binding Kuwait to the Arab and Islamic Nation and the international community, especially the Arab League Charter and the joint Arab defence pact and economic cooperation with the Arab states.

It also declares its full commitment to the United Nations Charter, the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the Gulf Cooperation Council. It also pledges to honour all treaties concluded with other Arab countries.

The Kuwaiti government announces its total commitment to other nations' aid organisations on the basis of reciprocity. But the government warns that it will take firm action against any foreign power which tries to interfere in any way in Kuwait's internal affairs.

We warn the foreign powers who had conspired with the ousted regime to realise that the people of Kuwait backed by the Arab masses everywhere will defend their country and dignity until the last drop of their blood.

The Kuwaitis will not be deterred by foreign threats and conspiracies and reject any pretext foreign powers would invoke in order to interfere directly or indirectly in the country's affairs.

We warn foreign powers which might try to launch an aggression against the Arab World in a bid to impose tutelage and hegemony on the Arabs, that all the Arabs will really fight the enemy and all invading foreign forces in the event of any aggression.

Kuwaitis visiting Jordan voice shock and surprise

By Mariam Shahin and Jounana Halasa

AMMAN — Kuwaiti citizens visiting Jordan expressed surprise and shock over the takeover of Kuwait by Iraqi forces early Thursday morning.

Many expressed worry over the welfare of their families and friends back home.

Kuwaiti embassy officials said that the border between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait was still open through Dammam.

Asked in a telephone interview if the Kuwaiti government expected help from other Arab nations, a senior Kuwaiti embassy official said: "We expect all Arab countries to help because we have been invaded."

Scores of Kuwaiti nationals wearing their distinct white dishdashas were seen in many street corners and around the Kuwaiti embassy in Jabal Amman. Some of them were engaged in speculation over what lay in store for their country, while others kept a pointed silence.

Groups of Kuwaitis converged on the embassy since early morning hours as news broke of the surprise Iraqi military operation and wanted to know when telephone lines would open to Kuwait and the border and airport would be receiving incoming passengers.

The senior official at the embassy confirmed that many Kuwaitis had come to ask for information and advice. "We advise that Kuwaitis stay in Jordan for the time being; if they wish to leave for Saudi Arabia, for example, it will be at their own risk," the official told the Jordan Times.

One Kuwaiti official visiting Jordan who asked to remain anonymous said, "Iraq and Kuwait were on good terms. We hope that everything will go back to normal very soon."

"Kuwait has always been a peaceful nation. We hope that the Iraqi forces will withdraw," said the official, who said that he would remain here till "things got back to normal."

Almost all Kuwaitis on vacation in Jordan said that they expected to return home immediately to Kuwait. While some said they would wait till the airport opened others took planes to Jeddah and Riyadh in Saudi Arabia.

"From Saudi Arabia it will be easier to get back to Kuwait," said one Kuwaiti who was on vacation in Jordan.

Only one Kuwaiti citizen interviewed by the Jordan Times said that he was not surprised by the Iraqi move, "we are Arab brothers and it is unlikely that there will be any problem in coming to a peaceful solution, inshallah," said the Kuwaiti tourist as he headed for the airport.

One Kuwaiti woman who had arrived in Jordan Thursday at noon said she was devastated. "I cannot comprehend what has happened. It is very painful," she said as tears rolled down her cheeks.

Some Kuwaitis refused to speak to the press, evidently worried about the consequences of anything they may say. "We have nothing to talk about. We hope everything will go back to normal," said one Kuwaiti in the lobby of a five-star hotel in Amman.

One Kuwaiti expressed his anger by saying, "Iraq has

wanted to take this step for a long time. Now it has achieved its goal."

Another Kuwaiti reacted sarcastically. "Well, at least it's Iraq and not Iran that has come for a visit to Kuwait," he said.

One Kuwaiti rushing to Saudi Arabia summed up what seemed to reflect the general mood of Kuwaitis in Jordan: "It's like a dream."

There was no immediate estimate of the number of Kuwaitis visiting Jordan this summer.

Demonstrations in Cairo

Kuwaitis protested the Iraqi takeover in Cairo, as scores of angry Kuwaitis shouted "long live Kuwait" and "down with Iraq" in front of a Cairo hotel which was hosting an Arab foreign ministers meeting.

The demonstrators appealed to the Kuwaiti minister of state, Abdul Rahim Al Awadi, who asked them to remain calm, Reuters reported.

One Kuwaiti, who declined to give his name, told reporters: "We want to die at home not abroad. The least they could do for us is to reopen the airport."

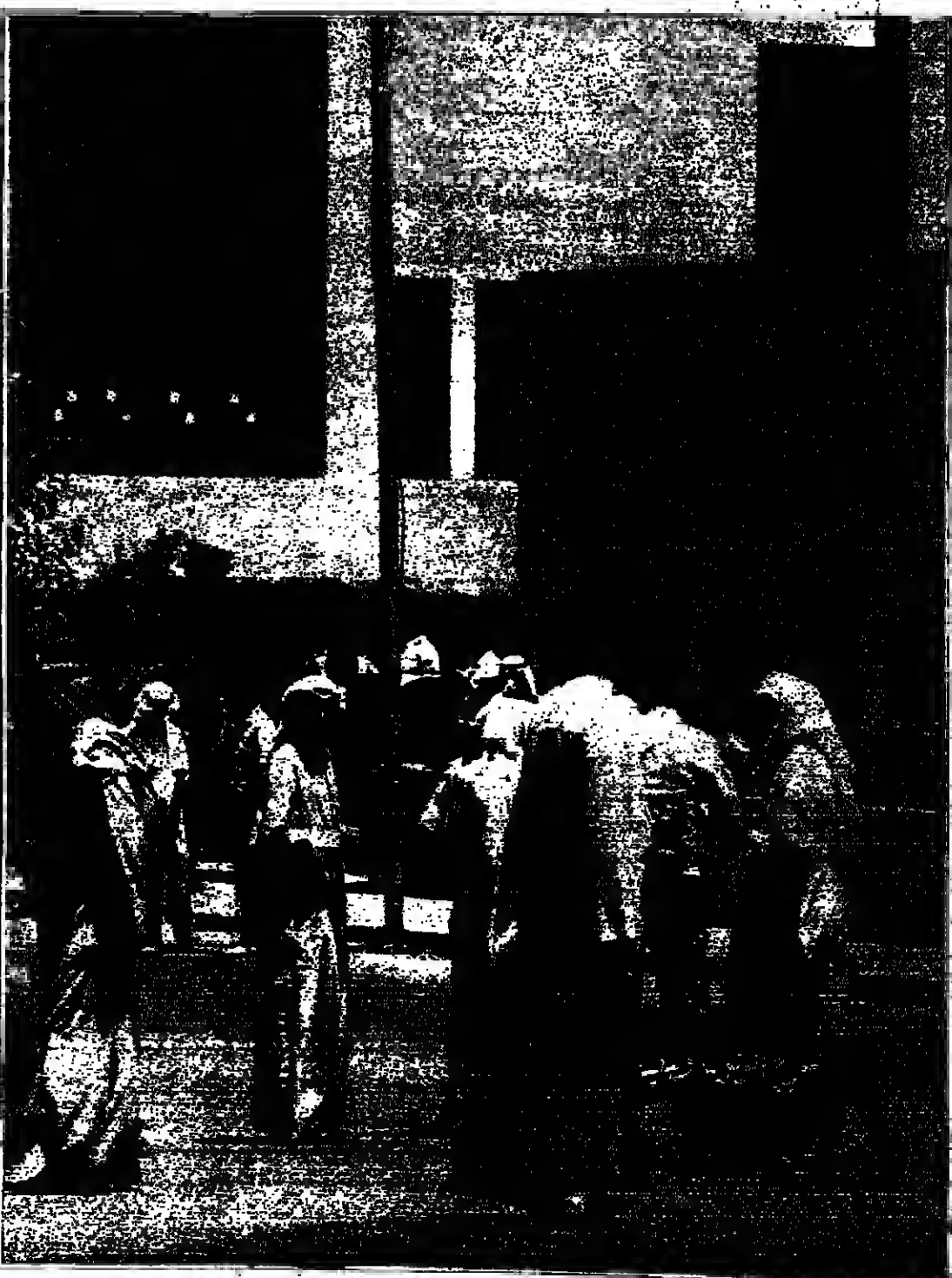
Many Kuwaitis flocked to buy radios so they could follow news of the invasion.

"We've had many Kuwaiti customers this morning. Some were crying as they asked to buy transistor radios," said Mohammed Salem, an assistant in a Cairo electrical goods shop.

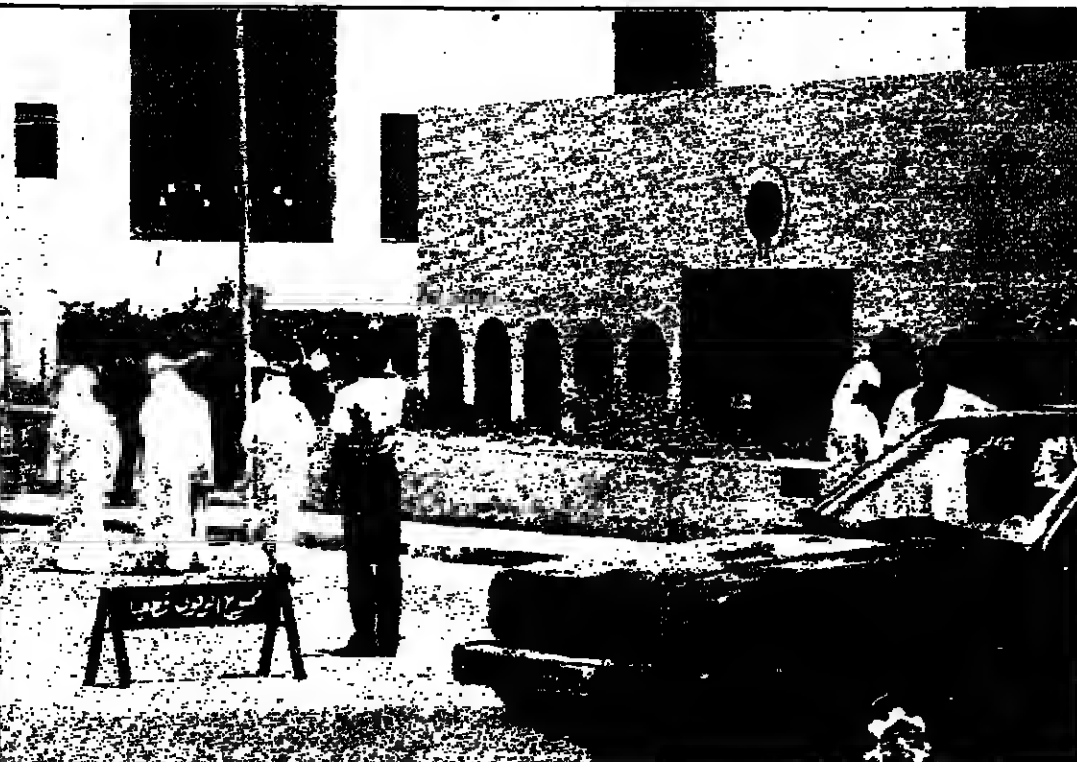
Fellow shop-worker Anwar Hanafy, 47, said he was very worried about relatives in Kuwait.



"Iraq and Kuwait were on good terms. We hope that everything will go back to normal" — Kuwaiti official stranded in Jordan



"From Saudi Arabia it will be easier to go home."



Kuwaiti nationals wait for news about home outside their embassy in Amman Thursday

Overwhelmed Kuwait 'very calm' after fighting dies down

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Iraqi forces stormed into Kuwait Thursday, overwhelming the tiny state's defences. The invasion outraged the West, sent Arab states into speechless shock and drove the price of oil up 15 per cent on world markets.

The emir escaped to Saudi Arabia. His envoy in Washington called for American military intervention.

Diplomatic sources in the Gulf estimated more than 200 Kuwaitis were killed or wounded, mainly from the Republican Guard which bore the main brunt of the invasion.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) quoted witnesses in Kuwait as saying Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad Al Sabah, one of the emir's brothers, was killed while trying to defend the royal palace in Dasmun. The report could not be independently confirmed.

Italy's ambassador to Kuwait said later that Iraqi forces appeared to control Kuwait City and fighting had died down.

"It's all very calm now," Ambassador Marco Colombo said.

"Fighting went on into Thursday afternoon but we've heard nothing in the past hour," he told Reuters in a telephone interview at 1845 GMT.

"The Iraqis appear to be in control now. There were fighter planes and helicopters above the city until about 1100 GMT, but the skies have been empty since then," he said.

The United States sent an aircraft carrier to the region, froze Iraqi and Kuwaiti assets in America, banned oil imports from

Iraq and joined a chorus of international condemnation of Iraq.

Kuwait, through its ambassador in Washington, appealed to the United States and other allies to send military forces to drive out the Iraqi troops.

But the government of President Saddam Hussein warned that it would turn Kuwait into a "graveyard" if anyone tried to intervene.

The United Nations called on Iraq to withdraw its forces immediately. In Baghdad, the Revolutionary Command Council led by President Hussein issued a statement saying the emir had been overthrown and Iraq intervened in support of "the provisional government of free Kuwait."

It said the government was made up of "revolutionary youths." But the invasion follows three weeks of threats by Baghdad and the massing of over 100,000 troops at its border in a dispute over borders and oil prices.

Baghdad Television issued several communiques from the provisional government promising to work out the problems with Iraq, banning all travel to and from Kuwait and closing it to sea traffic. It also asked Iraq to help maintain security.

One communique said the new government was in "full control of Kuwait City" and added: "The rule of corruption and terrorism exercised by the clique of the former government has gone once and for all."

Operating from an unknown location, Sheikh Jaber's government responded to the formation of the provisional government by

stating:

"Kuwait is Kuwait to its people, led by the emir, Sheikh Jaber, and his Crown Prince Sheikh Saad. God preserve them from all harm."

Iraqi tanks and troops struck across the frontier at 2 a.m. (2300 GMT) after Kuwait refused at crisis talks in Saudi Arabia to heed Iraqi demands in a two-week quarrel over land, oil and loans.

Iraqi troops reached the centre of Kuwait City within hours and key installations including the Central Bank.

All oil export terminals closed, choking off shipments which, under an OPEC agreement negotiated last month, were being reduced to a quota of 1.5 million barrels a day.

But in late afternoon Kuwaiti forces were reported still fighting fiercely in pockets outside the capital. Some radio and television transmitters were broadcasting passionate calls for resistance and appeals for help.

Crown Prince Sheikh Saad who is also prime minister, broadcast to the nation Thursday night pledging to fight Iraqi troops "until we clean their treachery from our land."

The broadcast did not come from the country's main transmitters in the capital which had been captured by Iraqi troops. Sheikh Saad was earlier reported to have fled with his cousin, the emir, to Saudi Arabia.

"Our valiant sons will rebuff the aggression and we shall all stand behind them as one man to defend our beloved Kuwait and protect it with our souls and hearts," he said.



Iraq called thousands of reserve troops to arms.

Baghdad said it struck to support young Kuwaiti revolutionaries who had overthrown the emir and set up the "free provisional government." Proclamations were broadcast in the name of the new regime but none of its members were identified.

The United Nations Security Council met before dawn and demanded unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces.

But most Arab governments in the region reacted only with stunned silence.

Many Arab foreign ministers were in Cairo for an Islamic conference. They called a hasty meeting to hear Kuwait's appeals for an emergency summit and armed intervention but deferred action, waiting for instructions from their governments.

The U.N. Security Council's only Arab member, Yemen, did not take part in the vote condemning Iraq. Most Arab governments, including Kuwait, supported Iraq in its Gulf war with Iran.

News of the invasion sent oil prices to their highest levels in

four years. Almost 25 per cent of world oil comes from the Gulf. Iraq and Kuwait together produce seven per cent.

London September futures for the world benchmark crude oil, North Sea Brent blend, touched \$24 per barrel, up 3.20 from Wednesday and the highest Brent has been since January 1986.

In New York, the September futures contract for light U.S. crude began \$1.96 higher at 23.50.

World prices have risen almost \$9 a barrel since the Iraq-Kuwait crisis flared last month.

The market feared an economic, if not a shooting war, over Iraq and Kuwait oil.

President George Bush slapped a trade embargo on Iraq, a major oil supplier. Diplomats at NATO headquarters in Brussels said he was asking the Western military alliance to "cripple Iraq totally... by refusing to buy any of their oil."

The United States, Britain and France impounded Kuwaiti assets to deny them, in a British minister's phrase, to a "puppet regime" being set up in Kuwait.

London analysts estimate Kuwait's overseas investments at \$55 billion, mostly in stocks, bonds and real estate.

The American aircraft carrier Independence and six escort ships in the Indian Ocean headed towards the Gulf area, where eight other U.S. navy ships were already on high alert.

Iraq's million-man army is the strongest in the Arab World and battle-hardened by its bloody 1980-88 war with Iran.

Kuwait is one of the richest nations in the world with vast oil

reserves and a population of only two million — two-thirds of them foreigners.

The row between Kuwait and Iraq erupted on July 17 when President Hussein threatened to retaliate against Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates for flooding world markets with oil and driving down prices. Iraq is dependent on oil revenues.

He accused Kuwait of stealing Iraqi oil from disputed fields and demanded that Gulf states write off loans made to Baghdad during the Gulf war.

Talks between Iraq and Kuwait in the Saudi Arabian Red Sea port of Jeddah broke down Wednesday. Iraq said the talks failed because Kuwait had not been "serious."

A Kuwaiti official said they collapsed when Kuwait refused to give in to Iraqi demands for territory and cash totalling billions of dollars.

The first casualty toll in the fighting came from Kuwait's Al Amir Hospital, near Dasmun Palace, which reported three Kuwaiti dead and 45 injured. Some 95 Iraqis had been admitted with wounds, it said.

The hospital said it understood a smaller number of casualties were being treated at other hospitals in Kuwait.

The invasion across the disputed border, 125 kilometres from the capital, was launched at 2 a.m. (2300 GMT). Iraqi units entered Kuwait City's centre within a few hours.

Waving Iraqi flags, jubilant soldiers in cars raced through the thoroughfares. Iraqi helicopters clattered overhead.

At Mntla, 35 kilometres north

of Kuwait, a foreign resident saw a lone Kuwaiti jet shoot down an Iraqi helicopter.

It swung back to attack another helicopter but was chased away by Iraqi guns, he said.

Hundreds of tanks, armoured personnel carriers, fuel and water tankers and trucks of troops trundled across sand and scrub towards Kuwait City in temperatures about 40 Centigrade (105 Fahrenheit).

Iraq massed a 100,000-strong army on the border in the past two weeks, outnumbering Kuwait's armed forces by five to one as they quarrelled over oil and land intensifies.

The United States, whose navy kept open Gulf oil lanes during the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war, had already put its fleet of eight warships in the waterway on high alert.

Within hours of the invasion, Washington ordered the aircraft carrier Independence and six escort ships in the Indian Ocean to head for the Gulf. "We are not ruling anything in or out," an American official said.

In a warning clearly aimed at Washington, Baghdad threatened to turn Kuwait into a graveyard if any outside power intervened.

A statement from the Revolutionary Command Council in Baghdad said Iraq "will withdraw as soon as things settle and when the free provisional government asks us to do so."

The "free government" broadcast its first communique on a previously unused frequency, saying it had dismissed the National Assembly. Elections would be held when stability was assured, it said.

GCC leaders meet in Jeddah

AMMAN (J.T.) — Leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) were to hold an urgent meeting in the Saudi port city of Jeddah with the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, late Thursday night, reports from the Gulf and Egypt said.

According to sources quoted by Reuters the meeting was to be chaired by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, to discuss the situation in the Gulf after Iraq's take-over of Kuwait.

Sheikh Jaber, who fled Kuwait early Thursday, was in Saudi Arabia, according to reports reaching here.

There was no clear indication how he left the country or whether his immediate family was with him.

Ministers of the six-member GCC — grouping Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates — met earlier in the day in Cairo at the request of Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal.

The GCC leaders meeting in Jeddah "will decide to do something... they did not want to respond prematurely," a source told Reuters.

UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan arrived in Jeddah earlier in the day after talks in Egypt with President Mubarak.

None of Kuwait's allies was commented publicly so far on the surprise Iraqi invasion and their official media have made no mention of it.

Kuwait demands joint Arab action

CAIRO (Agencies) — Kuwait Thursday called for the support of Arab countries and proposed that the Arab League condemn the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait and demand the withdrawal of Iraqi troops, a Kuwaiti official said Thursday.

Sources close to the Arab League Council quoted by the AP said that its members had agreed to a proposal by Syria for the convening of an emergency Arab summit. But no details were discovered about when and where it would be held.

The Arab League Council's emergency session, which convened in a Cairo hotel at the request of Kuwait, resumed its session and was listening to a statement by Saadoun Hamadi, a member of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council who arrived an hour earlier.

Meanwhile, President Hosni Mubarak held urgent contacts with Arab leaders on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and King Hussein arrived in the Mediterranean port of Alexandria for talks with the Egyptian president on the crisis.

The Middle East News Agency said Mubarak and King Hussein talked with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, U.S. President George Bush, Saudi leader King Fahd and Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The agency gave no details of the telephone conversations. Kuwaiti Cabinet Affairs Minister Abdul Rahman Awadi told reporters after the session adjourned to await the arrival of the Iraqi official, that he had asked the Arab League to condemn the Iraqi invasion.

"The United Nations Security Council has condemned the invasion and the issue is now being discussed within the framework of the Arab League and we hope that it will issue a condemnation within the hour and that Arabs stand against the invasion," Awadi said.

"Arab leaders must take the initiative and stop this bloodshed

and return things to their normal situation. We also call on Iraq to withdraw its troops," Awadi said.

Kuwait also demanded that Arab nations mount a joint military operation to drive Iraqi troops out of the country.

Delegates said the Kuwaiti demand for joint Arab military intervention invoked a 1950 defence and economic cooperation treaty that complemented the 1945 Arab League Charter.

Article 2 of the pact requires

(Continued on page 2)

Kuwaiti leader vows resistance

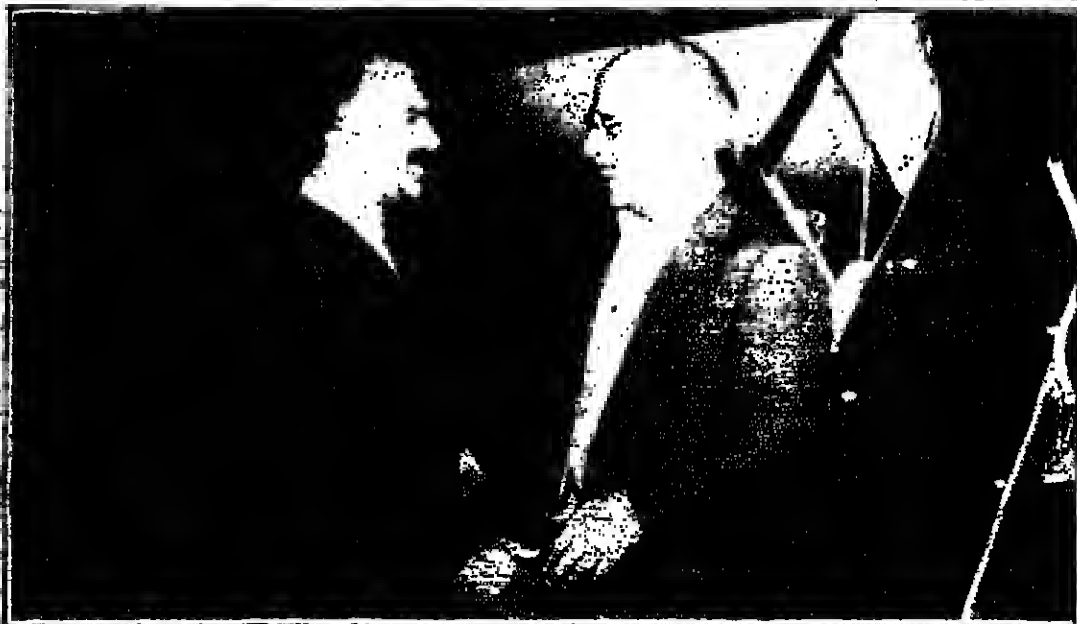
KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah broadcast to the nation on Thursday night pledging to fight Iraq's invading troops "until we clean their treachery from our land."

The speech was broadcast on the frequencies of Kuwait state radio and television but did not come from the country's main transmitters in the capital which have been captured by Iraqi troops.

Television accompanied the speech with a still picture of Sheikh Saad, who is the country's prime minister. He was earlier reported to have fled with his cousin, the emir, to neighbouring Saudi Arabia.

"Our valiant sons will rebuff the aggression and we shall all stand behind them as one man to defend our beloved Kuwait and protect it with our souls and hearts," he said.

"We shall fight them everywhere until we clean their treachery from our land. "Our Arab brothers are with us. Our Muslim brothers are with us. The entire world is with us. And above all God is with us."



His Majesty King Hussein is received upon his return from Egypt late Thursday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and His Royal Highness Prince Faisal (Petra photo)

Iraq says it will leave Kuwait in a matter of weeks

WASHINGTON (R) — Iraq said Thursday it hoped to withdraw its forces from Kuwait in a few days or weeks at the latest and it rejected any foreign intervention in the crisis.

"The Iraqi forces will be withdrawn as soon as the situation is settled down and as soon as the free government of Kuwait has so wished," said a statement read to reporters at the Iraqi embassy here by Iraqi Ambassador Mohammad Al Masbat.

"We hope that this will be a matter of a few days or a few weeks at the latest," he said, adding that "it is up to the people of Kuwait to determine, in the end, their own affairs."

He refused to take reporters' questions, saying he had nothing to add to his statement.

Kuwait appealed to the United States Thursday for military assistance to help oust the Iraqi troops who crossed into Kuwait early Thursday and seized control of the capital. Iraq said it moved in support of Kuwaiti revolutionaries.

Kuwait said its leaders were safe and organising resistance. It said it needed international help to survive.

The Iraqi statement said Iraq rejects "any foreign interference in the current events. Such interference will only aggravate the situation."

"The events currently occurring in Kuwait are an internal affair with which Iraq has no relation," it said.

"Their interim free government has asked the Iraqi government to extend assistance for the maintenance of law and order with a view to sparing the people of Kuwait any harm," the statement said.

It said Iraq had decided to extend this assistance.

"The Iraqi government vigorously reaffirms that Iraq harbours no special objective in Kuwait and is desirous of establishing relations of fraternity and good neighbourliness with it," it said.

Security Council condemns attack, urges Iraqi pullout

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. Security Council swiftly condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait Thursday, demanding an unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops and calling for immediate negotiations between the countries.

The Iraqi envoy said his country's troops would withdraw "as soon as the situation is stable," perhaps within "a few days or some weeks."

The Security Council resolution was adopted 14-0 in an emergency session requested by the United States and Kuwait hours after Thursday's pre-dawn invasion. Neither Kuwait nor Iraq is on the 15-member council.

The representative of Yemen said he did not vote because he had not received instructions from his government.

Britain's U.N. envoy, Crispin Tickell, condemned the invasion as an "ugly moment in world affairs." Kuwait is a former British colony.

"The United States has made it clear that it will stand shoulder to

shoulder with Kuwait in this time of crisis," U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering told the council. "It is our understanding that the present aggression was completely unprovoked."

Baghdad Radio said Iraq had come to the aid of "revolutionary youth in Kuwait" whom it said had toppled the Kuwaiti government.

Kuwait's ambassador to the United Nations, Mohammad Abdul Hassan, denied the invasion was in response to a call for help from a new government.

"The protest to invade an independent, sovereign state is a false, flimsy pretext," he said. "This kind of protest, if it's not going to be deferred in a decisive manner and by this August assembly, all international relations will be threatened. No country at all will be safe after this."

A statement read by Sabah Talat Kadrat, Iraq's deputy permanent representative, said Iraq's forces would withdraw when what it referred to as the

"free Kuwait provisional government" requested it.

The Iraqi statement also was reported by the Iraqi News Agency in Baghdad.

The Security Council resolution said the council supports all efforts for negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait. It specifically endorsed mediation efforts by the Arab League, which met in emergency session in Cairo Thursday.

The Iraqi invasion posed "a breach of international peace and security," the Security Council said.

Kadrat countered that the events were related to an internal matter that was not the council's concern.

"The Iraqi government firmly believes and states that Iraq is pursuing no goal or objective and wishes only cordial relations with Kuwait," said Kadrat. "Furthermore, it is the Kuwaitis themselves who will determine their own future and Iraqi forces will withdraw as soon as order has been restored."

King visits Egypt for talks with Mubarak

King stresses need to contain crisis within Arab domain

AMMAN (J.T.) — Any solution to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis should remain within the Arab domain and the problem should be kept away from any international intervention, His Majesty King Hussein was quoted as telling other Arab leaders Thursday.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King followed up with deep concern news coming from Baghdad, Kuwait and other Arab capitals on the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait. The King contacted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and exchanged views with them and consulted them, the agency said.

The King affirmed the need to contain the crisis within an Arab framework and to keep it away from international intervention, Petra said.

Egypt and Jordan are grouped with Iraq and Yemen in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

The King later paid a quick visit to Alexandria, Egypt, for talks with Mubarak on the Gulf crisis and returned home later Thursday. He was

accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

The talks between the King and the Egyptian leader, Petra said, "centred around the new development of the Iraqi army entering Kuwaiti territory after the Jeddah talks collapsed."

The talks also included possible ways "to contain the crisis and solve the problem within an Arab framework," Petra added.

Mubarak was also in touch with other Arab leaders on the issue. One report said he wanted to visit Baghdad early Thursday and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein dissuaded from doing so. Another report said the Egyptian leader might also fly to Jeddah to attend a meeting there of the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), including Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who fled to Saudi Arabia in the wake of the Iraqi invasion of his country.

By press time, there was no report of the meeting taking place in Jeddah.

Soviets freeze arms supplies to Iraq; superpowers plan joint statement

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union has decided to suspend its arms sales to Iraq, the official news agency TASS reported Thursday, quoting the Foreign Ministry.

"In the circumstances arising from the invasion by Iraqi armed forces of Kuwait, the Soviet Union has taken the decision to suspend the delivery to Iraq of arms and military equipment," the statement said.

The Soviet Union is Iraq's main supplier of arms. U.S. Secretary of State of James Baker will fly to Moscow Friday to issue a joint statement on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler told Reuters Friday.

Baker will meet Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow for about 90 minutes to issue the statement. Baker would then return to Washington.

"Secretary Baker is going to

Moscow tomorrow. He and Minister Shevardnadze will issue a joint statement at the airport," Tutwiler said.

The statement, which was already worked out, would condemn the invasion and call for an immediate Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, informed sources said.

Earlier Thursday, the Soviet Foreign Ministry had issued a statement condemning the Iraqi attack and calling for an immediate withdrawal of all Iraqi troops from the territory of Kuwait.

Shevardnadze told reporters on his return to Moscow from Leningrad that every measure should be taken to extinguish the conflict, according to a TASS report. He said he consult with his advisers and the Soviet Union would take whatever steps it could to halt the fighting.

Less than five hours later, TASS announced the suspension of arms sales. It was not clear what immedi-

ate effect the Soviet embargo would have on Iraq, which has also bought large amounts of military equipment, including planes, from France.

Iran maintained its war effort against Iraq for many years despite U.S. and British embargoes on deliveries of equipment and spare parts, relying on stocks and purchases through third parties.

For three decades Moscow has been Iraq's main supplier of military equipment ranging from tanks and trucks to small arms. It supplied Baghdad with weapons throughout the eight-year Iran-Iraq war.

A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman urged Iraq to withdraw its troops from Kuwaiti territory.

"The Soviet government is convinced that a swift and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti territory would make it possible to end the dangerous tension in the Gulf."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975

جورديان تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Early reaction, more to come

FIRST-DAY economic and political reaction to Iraq's intervention in Kuwait was indeed strong, but it is only the tip of an iceberg. The full repercussions of the Iraqi action will only be fully realised when Kuwait's future as a state is decided in the coming few days or weeks.

What has happened so far in international markets — in terms of gold and dollar price rises, the rise in oil prices to \$25 per barrel, the sharp drop in bonds and shares in major stock markets, the temporary freezing of deals based on Kuwaiti dinar, the freezing of Iraqi and Kuwaiti assets in Britain and the U.S. — is merely the immediate response to the conflict.

Open probabilities remain: Will oil pass the \$25 per barrel price mark? Will Saudi Arabia and Turkey close Iraqi pipelines to the Red Sea and the Mediterranean ports as Israeli and U.S. sources suggest? Who is going to control \$100 billion in funds owned by Kuwaiti financial institutions? Will the U.S. navy in the Gulf attempt a blockade on Iraq? Will the U.S. intervene either directly or under any other cover?

As far as we in Jordan are concerned, and strictly on the economic level, there will be questions as to the fate of the rest of the \$135 million pledged by the Kuwaiti government in aid for the Kingdom and another \$50 million pledged by Iraq. Jordan, in dire need of funds, has already received over half of these funds.

It is certain that the present situation in the region is not the best of situations for Jordan which is faced with strong challenges. Still, there is a general feeling that welcomes the redrawing of the political map of the Middle East if this means a better chance for the Arabs to counter the Zionist challenge.

But this transitory stage, during which the political map of the region is being redrawn and new balances are created, is very sensitive and crucial. It requires clarity of vision, delineation of the national and pan-Arab interest and a wise and effective stand.

In these times of historic importance both haste and procrastination should be avoided. Selfish, temporary or emotional interests should not reign. There must be a careful reading of the events in order to realise the best of the nation's interest. Everything should be geared towards the higher interests of the Arab Nation: Unity, development, democracy and modernisation.

It is no secret that President Saddam Hussein has depended on his popularity in the Arab World as a symbol of steadfastness and challenge to the nation's enemies. And if there were some reservations by some, these only stem from concern for the president and Iraq, and possible Zionist-imperialist intervention.

National cause on course

Mahmoud Al Kayed

Arabs everywhere can only feel pained and distressed whenever they hear of differences between one Arab country and another. Arab masses always feel that disputes should be settled through negotiations and in a brotherly manner whether the differences are based on oil, political, or territorial grounds. This was the feeling of the Arab masses from the start of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti row which was brought to the surface with an announcement from Baghdad disclosing that the dispute had persisted ever since the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran conflict.

Iraq said that there had been numerous contacts and negotiations and meetings with the Kuwaiti side to end the dispute and solve the problem, but that nothing was achieved due to the Kuwaiti rulers' procrastination and delay in responding favourably to Iraq's rightful demands. No breakthrough was achieved also due to Kuwait's determination to internationalise the dispute, a move which would not only open the way for the United States and other powers to interfere militarily, politically or economically in the affairs of the Gulf region. The dispute should have been restricted within the Arab countries themselves and dealt with through Arab mediation.

Iraq which has endured the deep wounds inflicted on it over the past years of conflict with Iran, during which Iraqi

forces had been involved in defending the whole Arab area, offering heavy sacrifices and blood now feels that it has lost patience, and is forced to take action in order to put things right and to return rights to their lawful owners. Having realised that Kuwait was not serious about settling the dispute over territory and oil, and that Kuwaiti rulers are openly denying Iraqi rights and refusing to recognise Iraq's legitimate demands as was clear from the Jeddah meetings, Iraq was forced to carry out its military operation after all other means had failed.

We are appalled over any inter Arab feuds, but we are more appalled by inter-Arab fighting because we feel that Arab weapons should be directed only against our enemies. For this reason, no fighting has taken place on Kuwaiti territory because both armies in Kuwait and Iraq are keen on avoiding bloodshed. The Iraqi operation is not an act of occupation as some are trying to describe, nor is it an invasion as the enemies of the Arab Nation try to picture. Iraq has no territorial ambitions in Kuwait and Baghdad's action should be regarded as a correction of past mistakes and policies which inflicted damage on Iraq's interest and caused losses and economic setbacks for the Arab Nation.

It is hoped that the coming days will bring with them a peaceful end to these operations in a manner that would safeguard the Arab people's interests.

Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute: The other dimension

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

AND FINALLY it happened and an Arab army entered the territory, and in fact occupied the capital of another Arab state. Was it a move prompted by desperation or was it motivated by ideology? Or was it prompted by a sense of frustration and incomprehension? These are troubling questions that need to be analysed in light of the recent history of the area and the place and the role of the Arabs in world affairs.

To begin with, the entire Arab World has become a joke, the butt of mockery as well as humiliation on the international scene. A large part of the blame of course lay with us. That other people have designs on our territory, resources, and aspirations goes without saying. Once, the states of the Gulf were called the tribal states; they were protectorates as well as original creations of the British, bound to Britain and later to the United States by bonds that have proved, on several occasions in the past, to be stronger than the bonds of Arabism and even Islam.

It is not a question of legality nor international law — If such a law truly exists in the first place. It is rather a question of politics that governs the situation. Politics and the empty declarations of "brotherhood or sisterhood" that the Arab states declare to each other

and the world. These declarations are empty because over the past few decades we have witnessed the Arabs divided, unashamedly into the "poor" and the "rich" and where the latter have nothing but disdain to show to their other "brother" Arabs. We in Jordan have had to go down on our knees seeking aid from this or that corner and our very food is controlled by the rigorous and harsh stipulations of the International Monetary Fund, IMF. And while our educated youth man the factories, hospitals and offices of private and public concerns in the Gulf, men and women on whom we spend millions and millions to educate, we have to stand respectfully even before a country like Holland, which is more supportive of Israel than Israel itself, to ask for dole and charity. We who have become a buffer zone protecting Arab oil in Saudi Arabia and the entire Gulf from the encroachments of Israel. And while we have to guard the six hundred kilometres of border with Israel protecting not only ourselves but the strategic depth of the Arab World, we have to beg for every penny of Arab charity that is given literally in that spirit.

Iraq fought Iran for eight long years not only to defend itself but the entire area of the Arab World. The Iranian Islamic revolution was contained at a terrific price not only in dollars but in lives as well. Not a family in Iraq escaped the

loss of a member while close to one trillion dollars of Arab money are invested mostly in the West. The entire population of Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates is no more than one and a half million people living in abundant luxury, conspicuously consuming and mostly in the West, while the other two hundred million Arabs are caught in the grips of poverty and hunger.

Our people in the Sudan are starving and so is our people in Palestine, who though living from day to day on their daily bread — when they can find it — are still fighting like men should fight in their intifada.

The question once again is not that of legality, nor international law but of humanity as well. Hitler did not only act illegally but he also was immoral when he starved and murdered his own people simply because they were Jewish. It is not simply a matter of legality but that of self-preservation, if not taste as well. How long does this "velour" strata of the rich remain so insensitive to the need around it without an explosion at one time or another?

Is it right that Iraq alone should pay the bill? Not only in souls but in cash as well, while Arab money is being invested, even squandered in pursuit of luxuries elsewhere?

And while I am not a Marxist nor indeed even a socialist I do wonder at the utter insensitivity, even blindness, of the "haves" who indulge in their

riches in the midst of poverty. Are Arab resources only for the privileged few? What of the thousands, tens of thousands of Egyptian, Jordanian, Iraqi, Palestinian and Syrian men and women who perished in defence of the land? Are they simply "cockroaches" as former Israeli Chief of Staff Rafael Eitan once called them?

That is the depth and the dimension in which the Iraqi army's operation against Kuwait should be viewed. I, like most Jordanians and Palestinians, Iraqis and Arabs, wished that matters did not develop in this fashion. But then it must be emphasised that this is an internal Arab matter — in spite of the joint sea or air operations, held between this Arab state or that with the United States.

I do not recall that the United States, Britain, France, Germany or any other Western state took punitive action when Israel occupied Jerusalem, or later on when it invaded Lebanon twice in 1978 and 1982 and occupied an Arab capital, Beirut. And while the Israeli army breaks the bones, the arms and the souls of Palestinian women, children and men on a daily basis since 1967, I did not hear but feeble protestations more in the spirit of encouragement of the Israeli atrocities than real protestations. Amman, indeed the entire Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, stands in the shadow of the threatening Israeli

sword, and Damascus is but a stone's throw from the mighty Israeli army. Why does not some one protest? And must Arab money remain in the service of the West which in turn is in the service of Israel?

Should Iraq have done what has been done? The moral argument, as well as the legal one, is moot unless one takes the above analysis into consideration. For, is it right that Iraq, and we here in Jordan and Syria, continue to pay the price of guarding others? NATO is surely an American instrument but those who are protected by its share in the burden. When will we stop being the tools of others? When will the Arab regimes (someone called them "card-board" regimes), stop jumping in the lap of this or that nation in search of protection? Why cannot these regimes pay to other Arabs to protect them as they pay to the others? And what is the meaning of holding "joint naval" or "joint air force" exercises with the United States? How many frigates and destroyers does the United Arab Emirates have?

It is a lamentable situation that what took place actually did, but the mockery of seeking protection from others is more lamentable too.

The time is never ripe for the kind of action that was taken especially when it is between "sisterly" — or is it "brotherly" — states. But someone has to one day serve a lesson on

the arrogance of the rich who are so blinded by their wealth that they cannot seem to realise that their only protection is with their neighbours.

Once again, it is an internal Arab affair and neither Israel nor anyone else has the right to even utter an opinion, though I am sure they would do so. It is hoped that both Israel, the United States and Britain, would keep their hands off unless they want to engulf the whole region in a terrible conflict. Iraq has already assured the world that it has no intentions of annexing Kuwait and has already spoken of the next Kuwaiti government. By doing so Iraq is assuring the entire world, including the West, of two things: One, that it cares for the independence and the territorial integrity of Kuwait; and two that oil would continue to flow as usual.

I am sure every Arab including the Kuwaitis themselves hope that the situation would not be permitted to escalate further. Iraq has already proclaimed that it will withdraw its forces in the next few days, and as soon as the situation settles to normality again. It is hoped that this would take place as soon as possible and that others would not take the opportunity to attempt to fish in these muddy waters. Everyone should remember that the oil fields already in turmoil do not need more oil poured over them to burn; the entire horizon.

Why are they complaining?

By Tareq Masarweh

The Americans, the Israelis and North Atlantic Alliance are escalating their threats against Iraq and are demanding that Baghdad pull out its forces from Kuwaiti territory immediately and with no preconditions.

It is clear that these parties are the beneficiaries of the whole situation, as they have been benefiting from a divided Arab World, and have been benefiting all along from the oil of the Gulf region and the oil revenues.

Why do we hear such American, Israeli and NATO threats, is it because the Iraqi troops entered Kuwait?

Why didn't we hear these threats when the Israeli forces backed by American planes and tanks attacked three Arab countries in 1967? Why didn't we hear these threats when the Israeli forces stormed Beirut and Southern Lebanon? Was that to protect the U.N. charter? Why can't this charter apply in the case of Israel's occupation of Palestine, part of Syria and one third of Lebanon?

The Israeli, the Americans and the NATO alliance is responsible for the Iraqi forces incursion into Kuwait, because the Western alliance tended to encourage the heads of the Gulf countries to remain adamant in their positions. The Western alliance is responsible for the developments in the Gulf because it is this alliance that launched joint military exercise to provoke the Iraqis.

We have been warning those leaning on the United States in the Gulf against pursuing such action because we have told them that they are using wooden swords that are good for nothing, because the United States can provide no protection to the Arabs but it can only protect its own oil interests.

Now we say that these American, Israeli, NATO threats will remain empty threats because the enemies realise that any attack however small and limited on Iraq is bound to trigger a vast explosion that can only bring out the Arab giant from a vast area stretching from the Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean. Such emergence of Arab force is bound to delimitate all Western interests. We are now living crucial days, similar to those of

the tripartite aggression on Egypt in 1956, but this time the situation is different because Iraq has a million troops, and the Arab masses are mobilised with hatred against the enemies.

We said that Saddam Hussein is not Abdul Karim Qasem. This man does not give an address and then enter into a discussion or argument on political matters, because he possesses great powers enabling him to get his own way. We believe that the Iraqi troops in Kuwait mark the beginning of the end of oil as a commodity and as funds. Iraq had used its own oil to achieve victory and it will no doubt help the Arab countries to achieve a similar result.

Arab oil will not continue to serve only as mere accounts for some Arabs in European and American banks, but it will rather serve as a power for the Arab Nation enhancing the Arab will. It is unreasonable for the millions of Egyptians, Jordanians and Syrians to be deprived of the oil wealth as millions of Indians, Filipinos and Bangladeshis are being imported to work in the Gulf; and it is unreasonable for some Arabs to continue to amass Arab wealth from Arab oil in Europe and the United States. These funds are being returned to Arabs in the form of loans that they burden the Arab economies and imposing the will of the World Bank on Arab states.

It is unreasonable to see oil money being used to impose American will on the Arab Nation, and as a tool for the U.S.-Israeli alliance.

Iraq has now thrown down the gauntlet in the face of the Arab countries' enemies. It is a defiance to the Zionist and the imperialists, and it is a call on the Arab Nation to stand by Iraq. It must be stressed that Kuwait and its people will remain intact and in their place, and that the battle is not among Arab, but it is rather between Arabs and the enemies of the Arab Nation.

Kuwaitis were taken by surprise — Al Qabas

AMMAN (J.T.) — Editor in Chief of Al Ra'i Arabic daily Mahmoud Al Kayed Thursday morning managed to reach the Kuwaiti Arabic daily Al Qabas by telephone and was informed that the Iraqi operation was surprising and astonished everyone.

Journalists in the newspaper told Al Kayed that no one expected the Iraqi forces to reach the Kuwait capital, take over the main streets and the main buildings and government institutions and surround Dammam palace, the residence of the Emir of Kuwait, that fast.

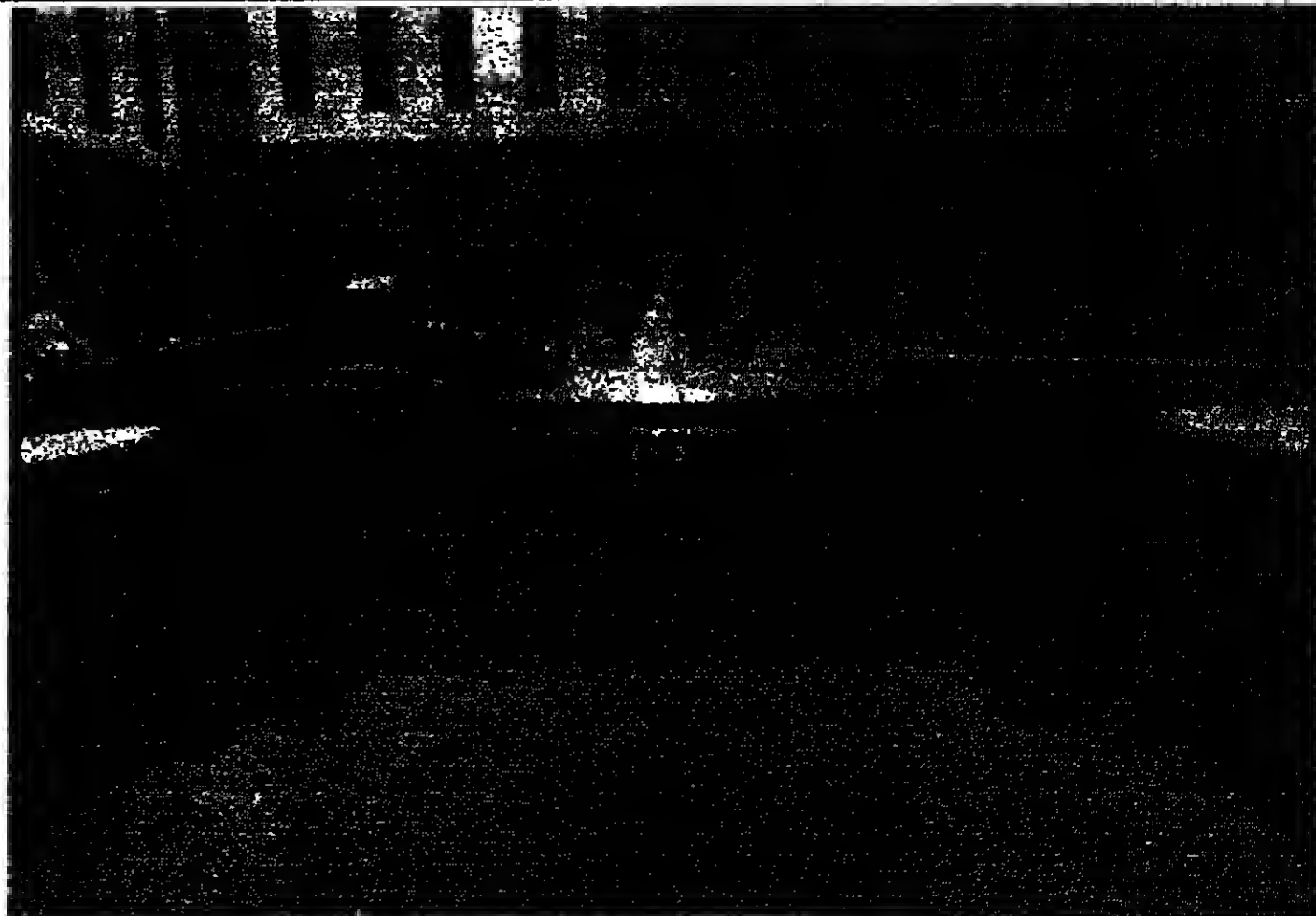
They added that Kuwaiti officials, despite the collapse of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti talks in Jeddah Wednesday and the continuation of the Iraqi press campaign against Kuwait, did not expect Iraqi invasion of this magnitude or speed.

They added that Kuwaiti officials never expected the Iraqi army would reach the Kuwait capital. They expected a limited Iraqi military incursion in the disputed border zone, Al Qabas sources said.

The sources expressed surprise with the Iraqi operation which "was implemented accurately, with good performance and nearly without any resistance."

One of the journalists working at Al Qabas said he did not know whether the newspaper would be published Friday or not and added "we are waiting for what is going to happen next."

When asked whether they could hear shooting from the newspaper's building they said they could hear sporadic shooting and could see Iraqi tanks and troops in several streets.



Kuwait, although boasting one of the highest per capita income in the world, was unable to ensure security through

financial wealth alone. Photo shows a swimming pool view in one of Kuwait's hotels.

Money is not enough

By Fahed Fanek

WHAT happened to Kuwait is a new evidence that any Arab country, on its own, cannot safeguard its national security or survival. It is another evidence that the financial wealth, however great, will not be able to achieve security and survival. It is better for all the Arabs to live as a strong and united state, whose parts cannot be detached and whose heart cannot be subjected to dependency and humiliation. We in Jordan are friends of both Iraq and Kuwait and are grateful for Kuwait's contribution of \$155 million for the year 1990.

We also appreciate Iraq's financial and political support for our country, despite Iraq's financial difficulties. We felt more compassion for the people who had endured eight

years of fierce fighting against an aggressive enemy, while some of the Arab countries of the Gulf were dealing with both Iraq and Iran on equal footing. It is natural that what happened will shake the world and change many of traditional convictions of what is admissible and what is not on the international level. So far America has translated its intentions into action, by freezing Kuwaiti and Iraqi funds in the United States. This proves anew that it is not a safe place for the Arab capital to be placed in.

We should have no doubt that the U.S. will not interfere militarily; but if it does, it will fail. Thus Arabs should realise that America does not safeguard any Arab national security or regime, and the Arab order is the basis of all political work. The Arab might and

security does not lie in its wealth alone, nor in its area or population, but lies in Arab integration. What will happen on the economic scene now?

Globally speaking, the price of oil will soar to exceed 25 dollars within several days; the dollar and gold might also witness an increase, thus providing investors with a haven for security and stability. The Kuwaiti dinar has been dealt a heavy blow, and it is difficult to predict what will happen to it until the situation becomes clear and until it is known whether Kuwait will continue as a state, and if its wealth will continue to be at its disposal.

Even if America is not to interfere militarily in a direct way, there is nothing that can prevent it from interfering indirectly through its tool in the Middle East, namely Israel.

What we know about Israel is that it is waiting for the right opportunity to precipitate a surprise move. At present, a military blow is not likely because Iraq is on full alert. As such, Israel's role remains quite unclear. What has to be said is that the Kuwait-Iraq affair is a pan-Arab concern which should be tackled through the Arab League, the Gulf Cooperation Council and Arab Cooperation Council.

Such Arab force should find the suitable formula, capable of eliminating any possible foreign interference in the Arab internal matters. With what happened yesterday, the political, economic and national map of the Arab World will be subject to redrawing. This is a historical turning point for the Arab World and the whole region.

Deputies, public figures cite need to share in oil wealth and mapping out the future

The following are reactions by Lower House of Parliament deputies and other public figures to the Iraqi intervention in Kuwait.

Samir Kassar (Member of the National Bloc in Parliament — Balqa).

We view the present situation with great concern and vigilance because we are keen on a unified stand at this critical stage.

We would like to see an end to inter-Arab differences and an amicable settlement achieved in a brotherly atmosphere. Because we believe that the higher Arab interests should be safeguarded without any external influences on the inter-Arab relations and on the Arab decisions.

We also would like to see no Arab country acting to achieve its own interests at the expense of the Arab World because in that case the Arabs would lose its ability to protect its own interests and national security and would risk its political weight in the international community.

Abul Latif Arabiyat (Member of the Muslim Brotherhood group — Balqa).

We believe in the unity of the nation and its common destiny. We also believe that the wealth of the Arab Nation should be used to confront all challenges from any source.

We hope that the dispute in Kuwait will end peacefully so that the Arabs can confront the common threats. The nation should unite its ranks and use all its potentials to repel aggression and deal with the Zionist expansionist designs.

We must all work towards thwarting the plots and conspiracies of our enemies.

Dr. Hani Shihab (member of the Democratic Bloc).

We had hoped that the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute would be settled through positive dialogue and understanding and in a manner that would safeguard the higher Arab nation's interests. But now that the Iraqi troops have entered Kuwait, we hope that the Iraqi people and leadership are able to deal with the matter in a manner that would preserve and protect joint Arab action. We hope that the following steps will lead to positive results that would serve the Arab cause and help countries confront the Zionist-imperialist challenge.

The Arab countries should realise that the current developments in the Gulf should not only be viewed as a struggle between the Arab nationalist forces and the hostile forces posing danger to the Arab Nation. The Arabs are now in need of all the elements for success and they need the oil which should be transformed into an effective Arab weapon with which to fight the imperialist forces which have been imposing hegemony on the area and its wealth.

We hope that the leadership in Iraq and Kuwait will now thwart all the imperialist conspiracies and enemy plots and the Zionist exploitation of the situation.

The Jordanian people stand together in the face of any external intervention and will confront any attempt to interfere in the Gulf region. This Gulf issue should remain an Arab problem to be solved by the Arabs themselves and in a manner that would offer service to the Arab cause. Should the United States and Israel contemplate using military force they would be committing a grave blunder and would be confronted not only by the Iraqi and Kuwaiti people but by the Arab Nation at large.

Salim Zuhair (Democratic bloc — Ramtha).

The Arab nation needs a responsible and firm stand which gives it its dignity back. The challenges that face our nation are so dangerous, and the Arab wealth, especially oil wealth, was not properly utilised over the years against our nation's enemies. In order to make it lead its natural path for the sake of our cause and the reinforcement of its capabilities and because the one who is capable to take hold of this power is Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, I would call on our sons of this Arab nation to unite so as to achieve our national aspirations and to preserve the honour of this nation, which has been exposed to harm for so many long years. It is time that we take another look on this nation's deprived wealth and capacities and make it available for the millions of hungry and deprived people, while a small fraction consumed all its energies with no right, and at the time when Iraq and Kuwait and the Palestinian cause underwent major difficulties.

Iraq must receive all the support from the Arab nation. Victory must be for Iraq and for all the people of this nation who are interested in preserving its future.

Deputy Abdullah Zreikat (National bloc — Karak).

We had often emphasised that Arab oil wealth is only for Arabs and not for Americans or for Zionists. Accordingly, we must show an unwavering belief in implementing this logo no matter what methods are taken in order to achieve this objective.

We have always believed that frontiers and boundaries which have separated the Arab countries are only the marks of colonialism and the removal of these boundaries in any way is a national and unified act. Thus, I hope that what is happening now will only lead to the repositioning of the Arab nation of its wealth.

Dr. Mammad Al Abiad (Jordan Medical Association President).

We condemn the former Kuwaiti government's position vis-a-vis recent developments and its economic, financial and oil policies of the former government of Kuwait which were directed against the Iraqi people's interests. Despite repeated Iraqi government warnings against these policies, which do not reflect brotherly relations with Arab countries, the former regime persisted in its actions. We had hoped that the former Kuwaiti government heeded warnings and averted the Iraqi action. It should be emphasised that Arab oil is for the Arab Nation, a united nation and its future; and there can be no room for any single person or individual group to rock the boat and drown the majority of the Arab people.

Walid Abdul Hadi (Bar Association President).

We support all forms of Arab unity, leading to a pan-Arab unity. Therefore, we have no objection to Iraq's action which is designed to rid the Kuwaiti people of their dictators, and we back any support for Iraq. Our support for Iraq emanates from a strong conviction and we believe that the Iraqi incursion into Kuwait will serve the nation's interests. This action is bound to pave the way for the emergence of pan-Arab unity. The Iraqi-backed slogan (Arab oil is for the Arab people) can never be realised until Arabs are united in one state.

Our support for Iraq is absolute and unconditional. We do not condone shedding Arab blood by Arab hands, but we have to place the higher Arab interests above all other considerations.

Tayseer Hameed (Jordanian Pharmacists President).

August 2, 1990 is a glorious day on which the free Kuwaitis, backed by their Iraqi friends have moved to regain their rights and the rights of the Arab Nation. The move was designed to regain sovereignty and Arab wealth from the tyrannical regime in Kuwait which used to employ oil and Arab wealth for its own selfish interests and those of the United States and the imperialist allies and Israel. The former regime used to employ that wealth to conspire against the Arab Nation. This Iraqi move had been longed for by all Arab masses who had hoped to see an end to these conspiracies.

The United States is presently issuing threats against Iraq, and is moving its fleets and forces in the Gulf waters using Arab naval bases, while Israel is consulting with its allies and studying with Washington means of proving to the world that they do not abandon "their friends." But it should be noted that these forces are all enemies of the Arab Nation. Iraq can never fear these forces and is determined to regain its full rights.

Jamal Al Sheer (United Democratic Bloc).

From the information available to us so far, and from our observations collected over the last few days about the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute, we have to emphasise certain principles, which should constitute a background for our judgement on the events taking place in the Arab World and on the continued attempts to exploit its wealth and peoples and to usurp its rights.

The United States and Israel are, without any doubt, supporting all efforts designed to foil Arab hopes and are working to preclude the achievement of Arab unity or progress on the path of unity or solidarity. They make Arabs unable to defend their national rights, particularly

the rights of the Palestinian people.

It is regrettable that Britain has joined the United States in its position vis-a-vis the Iraqi attack. However, Israel might capitalise on this opportunity to rearrange its hostile plans, but it is hoped that the United Nations Security Council will adopt a balanced and wise stand.

All Arab citizens have genuine hopes that Arab leaders would do their best to contain this inter-Arab problem, thus preventing the United States and other powers from taking this opportunity to further split and divide the Arab Nation. Therefore more efforts should be made to heal the rift between Iraq and Kuwait on the one hand and Iraq and Syria on the other.

There is also a need for more coordination among Arab, Islamic and non-aligned countries. In this regard I see that Jordan, and King Hussein in particular, can

play an active role in healing the rift.

Finally, I would call for opening an Iraqi-Kuwaiti dialogue in which all Kuwaiti nationalist groups, which the regime insisted on isolating from political life, should take part. Such a dialogue would hopefully lead to finding solutions to all outstanding problems between Iraq and Kuwait, with the help of Arab leaders.

Moreover we hope to see the signs of unity between these two countries, following the example of the two Yemens and the two Germanies.

It is high time for Arab Nation to follow the path of unity rather than to remain subject to foreign powers who can not give them protection or security.

Issa Mdallat (member of the Jordanian Communist bloc) Karak governorate.

"We deeply regret the present situation between Iraq and Kuwait and the differences that exist between them. We believe

that the differences revolved over the oil and the production quotas for each Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) country so as to safeguard oil prices. Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates have been exceeding their oil production quotas, which led to a drop in the oil prices and causing severe damage to OPEC countries in general and Iraq in particular.

We regret that the problem was not solved through negotiations and that the military option was resorted to in the end. Now that Iraqi troops have been sent into Kuwait, we hope that the problem will end soon and these troops will return to their bases. We should be aware of the danger inherent in American forces intervention in the Gulf because the United States had earlier threatened to use force against Iraq under the pretext of providing protection to its friends in the region.

We believe that any American

intervention in Arab affairs unacceptable and can never be justified. What is required from the Arab people and nations is to appeal to Iraq to end all military struggle and resort to peaceful means to settle its differences with Kuwait.

Yusef Al Azam (member of the Muslim Brotherhood bloc) Ma'an governorate.

"We are for Arab unity based on the tenets of Islam. We support the slogan: Arab oil is for Arab people and not for a particular group of the Arab people. What happened in Kuwait is an internal affair, something which normally happens in many countries of the world. But it is hoped that reason will prevail in the end through the mediation of responsible elements. We hope also that the Kuwaiti people will be able to determine their own future and decide to unite with Iraq, so that there can be no chance for any foreign power,

especially the United States, to intervene. We back Iraq against the United States and we support the wishes of the Iraqi and Kuwaiti people whether they choose unity or otherwise. We hope that the Iraqi armed forces will help to preserve the unity of the Arab people.

Commenting on the threats by the United States and its so called friends and allies, will not terrify Iraq and will not change this great pan-Arab stand. Neither Iraq nor the Arab people fear the American threats or will retreat in the face of such threats. Iraq will triumph and the whole Arab Nation will blast the volcano under the feet of the enemies. **Mawla Al Bakri-Chairwoman** of the Arab Women Graduate Club — said that the first reaction of any Arab citizen who believes in his Arab nationality and the unity of its people is a mixture of conflicting feelings. Feelings of concern and pain for the new march of Arab understanding,

which was the culmination of the extraordinary Arab summit, held in Baghdad. Iraq has made a significant contribution to creating that atmosphere of Arab understanding, which caused much concern to the imperial powers, which sought by all means to destroy the great Arab achievement.

The Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute and the Iraqi incursion into Kuwait is not the first time that these two Arab countries had disputes, don't think it will be the last. This decisive development was therefore expected. Iraq, which has fought on behalf of the Arab Nation and for safeguarding the Arab identity of the Gulf for so many years, will not stand still in the face of a sweeping peoples' will, in defence of right and justice, and for putting an end to the interference by some imperialist powers, which seek to split the Arab Nation. "I hope such intervention would best serve the interests of the whole Arab Nation and the Kuwaiti people.

Jordanians jubilant over Iraq's move in the Gulf

Man in the street cautious about intervention

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An atmosphere of excitement was evident Thursday among Jordanians in an emotional reaction to the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait earlier in the morning. Words of "congratulations" and "may the next step be liberating Palestine," echoed throughout the Kingdom.

The general feeling was that of jubilation and happiness among the people in the street, and many described the Iraqi move as being "dignified" for the Arab Nation and people.

Most of those interviewed by the Jordan Times said that they saw the Iraqi move against the Kuwaiti regime as being against the United States and Israel rather than another Arab country.

All those who agreed to comment on their reaction to the Jordan Times refrained from giving their full names.

"This is an invasion and attack against the United States, not the

Kuwaiti people. Kuwait used to ensure the interests of America — it was an American colony. And what Saddam Hussein did was revive our Arab dignity," Yusef, a technician, told the Jordan Times.

A five-star, American-owned hotel employee who did not want to be identified even by his first name said all his colleagues at the hotel were as happy as he was, and described the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait as "a revolution against the U.S."

A middle-aged housewife, Najla, said that the takeover was a positive move, but her reason had a different angle: "If it brought on all this fear and condemnation from the United States and Israel, then it is obviously good for us. We should not forget the misery these two (countries) have brought us."

Mohammad, a merchant, said that all the Arabs, leadership and people, should support Iraq "because it has proven that it is truly concerned with Arab interests through action, not just lip-service like the rest of the

Arab World."

The majority of more than a dozen people interviewed did not worry too much about the possible consequences resulting from the Iraqi move. Some believed that no country, including the United States, would interfere militarily against Iraq because of its (Iraq's) military strength.

"People here don't seem to care about what could result from this event," said Mufid, a farmer from eastern Amman. "Everyone at this end is emotionally-driven to what has happened, and everyone has hope in Iraq and its leadership. The people don't think that there will be any Western military interference; and if there is, they don't care about the consequences. They feel their dignity has been revived because someone has finally stood up against the United States," he said.

Although few people saw Iraq as "outsmarting a small country, like Kuwait rather than Israel, the first enemy," others saw it as a first step towards "liberating Palestine."

Hala, a young secretary, told the Jordan Times that "first we have to clean out the corrupt among us Arabs before we can liberate Palestine."

She added that she respected the Iraqi leadership for the first time because "it took action and not just uttered words or flexed muscles."

Ahmad, a businessman, said Iraq's takeover of Kuwait was a first step towards ending the spree of "giving free oil to the West" and thus hindering the liberation of Palestine."

He added that Iraq was justified in its action because it had given Kuwait a "peaceful chance for a just settlement, to regain what is rightfully theirs (Iraqi). This was the only solution, and Saddam Hussein has proven he is a serious leader and we have hope in him reorganising the entire Arab Nation, which will hopefully lead to the liberation of Palestine."

According to a dentist, Iraq's move was a preventive measure against American intervention in the Gulf. She said that the U.S. was preparing to "put its foot in

the Gulf and Saddam prevented it before it happened."

The dentist added that Kuwait "deserved what it got" because "very few people were benefiting from the oil wealth that belongs to all Arabs who have shed blood to defend all the Arab countries."

She said that Iraq will reorganise the Arab wealth and development and put an end to the Western usurpation of oil.

"This had to happen," she said. "No-one ruled out the possibility of danger the Iraq move poses on the Arab region, including those who believed that it will be for the better in the long run."

Said, a young businessman, said it was very dangerous because "if Iraq did not receive a go-ahead from the United States first, then it is messing around with American territory."

He added that another danger would be Israel capitalising on this move by cracking down hard on the intifada and the Palestinians in the occupied territories, using the excuse of Arabs being

"barbaric and dangerous."

Bassam, an engineer, said that the Iraqi move would be negative if Israel capitalises on it and "act militarily against an Arab country, and/or if general personal freedoms in the region would deteriorate as a consequence."

Bassam's positive outlook was that oil prices would go up and additional income would be "fairly shared and well-invested in real development in all Arab countries, especially financially-strapped Egypt, Sudan and Jordan."

Many viewed Saddam Hussein as the "godot" the Arab people have been waiting for.

One taxi driver, Ali, summed up a general feeling in the Jordanian street: "We wish he (Saddam) came during late Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser's era. The two courageous men would have made a great team and could have liberated all Arab lands occupied by Israel and colonised by the West. We wish there were more Saddams in our midst."

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An oil crisis turns take-over

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq's takeover of Kuwait followed the failure of crisis talks between the two states in Saudi Arabia.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein ignited the dispute two weeks ago when he accused his tiny Gulf neighbour Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates, of driving down the price of oil by cheating on their OPEC quotas and flooding the market.

He also revived territorial claims against Kuwait. The border has never been agreed but Iraq was quiet about its claims when Kuwait and other Gulf Arab states were funding its 1980-88 war with Iran.

The row escalated when Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz accused Kuwait of stealing \$2.4 billion worth of oil from Iraq fields.

Saddam deployed thousands of elite troops, backed by armour and missile launchers to the Kuwaiti border.

Western analysts described the deployment as "scare tactics" ahead of an Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries meeting in Geneva but the build-up continued after the OPEC talks were over.

Key events: — July 17 — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein denounces Gulf quota-busters, accusing them of stabbing Iraq in the back with a poisoned dagger.

— July 18 — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz tells the Arab League Kuwait has stolen \$2.4 billion worth of Iraqi oil and has built military posts on Iraqi land.

The UAE says it will cut oil output as promised. Kuwait's parliament denounces Iraq's tirade. Arab leaders strive to defuse the crisis gets underway. Oil prices rise.

— July 19 — Iraq accuses Kuwait of digging oil wells on Iraqi territory.

— July 20 — Iraq's state-controlled press says Kuwait and the

UAE are not to be trusted to stick to their OPEC quotas. Egypt calls for calm.

— July 21 — Saudi Foreign Minister flies to Baghdad and then Kuwait. Kuwait's Trade Union Federation accuses Iraq of virtual declaration of war.

— July 22 — Iraqi Foreign Minister arrives in Cairo. Egypt says Gulf crisis will soon be over.

— July 23 — Baghdad papers call Kuwait's foreign minister "a U.S. agent." Kuwait denies it seeks to draw foreign powers into the dispute and says it wants Arabs to settle it.

— July 24 — Iraq's deployment of thousands of troops backed by armour to the Kuwaiti border revealed. U.S. warships in Gulf said on high alert. Egypt's President Mubarak visits Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Oil prices rise again.

Iraq says ahead of OPEC meeting in Geneva that demand should be choked until oil prices soar to \$25 per barrel.

— July 25 — Iraq demands \$2.4 billion in compensation from Kuwait. Mubarak says Kuwait and Iraq will meet in Jeddah to discuss crisis. Arab diplomats say Iraq has given Egypt assurances it will not attack Kuwait.

— July 27 — OPEC agrees to raise its target price to \$21 per barrel of oil. Iraq wants Kuwait to meet Baghdad's "legitimate rights" at the planned Jeddah talks.

— July 31 — Senior Iraqi and Kuwaiti officials meet in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Talks last two hours. The Washington Post reports that Iraq has almost 100,000 troops at the Kuwaiti border.

— Aug. 1 — Jeddah talks collapse without further meetings. Senior Iraqi delegate says meeting failed because Kuwait was not serious about meeting Iraq's demands. Kuwaiti official says Kuwait refused to cede territory.

— Aug. 2 — Iraqi tanks and troops cross the border at 2 a.m.

Kuwait — a magnet

KUWAIT (R) — Hundreds of thousands of foreigners, ranging from Sri Lankan maids to high-powered European businessmen, are caught up in Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The tiny state, with its gleaming new highways, glass and steel office towers and a banking system awash with petrodollars, has been magnet for workers from all over Asia, the Middle East and the West.

Of the two million people who live in the country only 650,000 are Kuwaiti citizens, according to official figures.

Kuwait airport, now closed by the invasion, normally sees dozens of flights each day to such cities as Cairo, Amman, Bombay and Karachi.

Many of the foreign workers return home loaded with appliances and consumer goods purchased with their earnings.

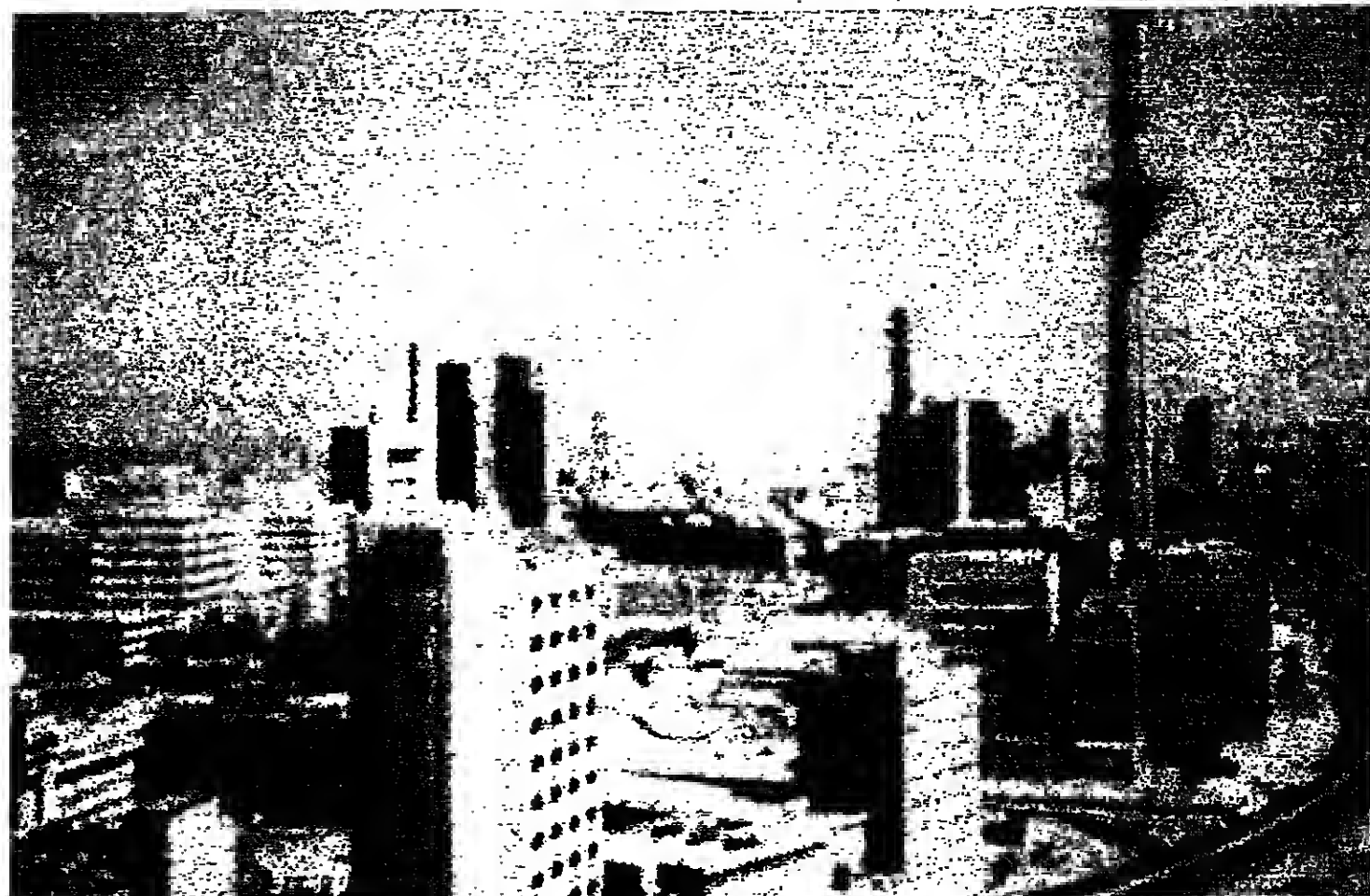
Officials say Kuwaitis make up fewer than two per cent of workers in the private sector. In government departments they number around 40 per cent.

Around 150,000 foreign maids, almost half from Sri Lanka, work in Kuwaiti homes.

Westerners number only in the thousands but hold senior positions in banks and the industry, as do a few hundred Japanese. A substantial group of Western military advisers trains Kuwaiti forces.

Some 300,000 Palestinians have put down deep roots. They flocked to the country in the 1960s to take advantage of oil income flooding the country. They now fill many professional positions. Egyptians, Jordanians and other Arabs are also numerous.

In later years Kuwaiti companies and government offices turned to the Indian subcontinent for employees, especially for clerical jobs. More than half the non-Kuwait labour force now come from south and southeast Asia.



Opulence of oil wealth is seen everywhere in Kuwait. A view of Kuwait City.

According to figures from their homelands there are 100,000 Indians, 85,000 Pakistanis, 70,000

Bangladeshis, 80,000 Sri Lankans, 45,000 Filipinos, 10,000 Chinese, 6,500 Thais and 700

South Koreans.

A substantial number of Iranians moved to the country before the Iranian revolution in 1979. Many took Kuwaiti citizenship.

Iraq, Kuwait produce 20% of OPEC oil

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq and Kuwait produce one fifth of the total oil produced by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Iraq is one of the major producers of the 13-member oil group with a daily OPEC production quota of 3.14 million barrels. This is equal to that of Iran, and second only to Saudi Arabia's quota of 5.1 million barrels per day.

Kuwait's quota is 1.5 million barrels per day out of an estimated production capacity of 2.2

to 2.5 million barrels per day.

The United States buys about 200,000 barrels of oil per day from Kuwait and 500,000-600,000 barrels per day from Iraq.

It was not immediately clear if the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait Thursday would interrupt oil production or the free movement of tankers through the northern Gulf.

The invasion sparked a sharp increase in the price of oil.

In the first half of 1990, OPEC produced about 23.5 million barrels of crude oil per day, accord-

ing to the Nicosia-based industry newsletter the Middle East Economic Survey. World production outside the Soviet Union and its former satellites was about 52 million barrels daily.

Iraq said Kuwait overproduction caused a \$14 billion loss for Iraq, which is trying to rebuild its economy.

It also accused Kuwait of stealing \$2.4 billion in oil during the war from an oil field on the disputed frontier.

Kuwait is the only OPEC member to have developed an inte-

grated international system covering both production and distribution of oil. The latter is done through a network of gas stations in Europe and elsewhere in partnership with leading oil companies.

Kuwait's huge oil reserves are backed by one of the largest financial reserves in the world.

Kuwait has more than \$100 billion of surplus petrodollars mostly invested in the United States, Britain, West Germany, France and other industrialised countries.

U.S. House panel asks for tighter sanctions on Iraq

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The House Foreign Affairs Committee by voice vote Aug. 1 approved legislation that would impose comprehensive trade sanctions on Iraq. The full House of Representatives is not expected to consider the measure until September.

Last week, both the House and the Senate adopted amendments to the farm bill which would impose trade sanctions on Iraq. Differences between the two versions of that bill must be resolved in conference.

This bill sponsored by Howard Berman (Democrat-California), does attempt to address some U.S. administration objections to legislative sanctions, according to committee sources. The bill "finds that" although Iraq is a party to the International Covenants of Human Rights, the human rights practices of its government are considered "abysmal."

The bill would impose trade sanctions unless the president issued a waiver stating either that Iraq is in compliance with international standards, or that a waiver is essential to U.S. interests.

The Berman legislation, committee sources said Aug. 1, carries restrictions on goods and technology "one step further" than new regulations under the Export-Import Act announced by Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly before the House Foreign Affairs Committee July 31.

The legislation would have the United States oppose any loan or financial or technical

assistance to Iraq by international financial institutions, and would deny access to Export-Import Bank credit and all forms of assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

It would also prohibit the sale to Iraq of any item on the United States munitions list, government and commercial arms sales, and place restrictions on "dual use" goods, such as computers, electronics, laser and communications equipment and certain airplane parts that have both civilian and military application.

In 1989, about \$60 million worth of such goods were sold commercially to Iraq, congressional sources said. Under the Berman legislation, the president might lift the sanctions only if he certified to Congress that the government of Iraq has demonstrated substantial improvement in its pattern of conduct in its respect for internationally recognised human rights, that it does not support international terrorism, is no longer acquiring weapons and delivery systems of mass destruction, and that it is living up to its international commitments and obligations.

Or, he might certify to Congress that it is in the national interests of the U.S. to waive the sanctions, and give his justification for that determination.

The administration has stated repeatedly that it cannot support congressionally legislated sanctions which would impinge upon the foreign policy powers of the president or which deny the president essential flexibility in the

making and carrying out of foreign policy.

White House Deputy Spokesman Roman Popadink July 25 stressed the administration's opposition to legislative sanctions in a briefing to foreign correspondents.

"Obviously, there are various diplomatic channels that can be pursued before such measures can be undertaken," Popadink noted, adding:

"We've always been reluctant to sign on to sanctions that are legislated because those are prerogatives that fall into the presidential powers for making and determining foreign policy."

Kelly, testifying before the House Foreign Affairs Committee July 31 also said the administration will not support "broadly legislated sanctions."

"The administration remains opposed to broad-gauged sanctions legislation of the kind that is under consideration in the House, and that passed the Senate."

Kelly said the U.S. is "profoundly concerned" about Iraq's conduct in the Middle East, but "the administration could not, as a matter of policy, support legislation which failed to give the president an unconditional waiver authority."

He said the department is engaged in doing a number of things which will close avenues to the Iraqis that might contribute to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. "Efforts are already underway, and I think are going to be effective," Kelly said.

LONDON (Agencies) — Nations around the world Thursday condemned the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait, with the United States, Britain and France trying to protect Kuwaiti assets by freezing them in their nations.

The Soviet Union, one of Iraq's largest arms suppliers, announced that it was suspending deliveries.

U.S. President George Bush called for the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces and said "we're not discussing" military intervention. However, the U.S. Defence Department announced that the aircraft carrier USS Independence, escorted by its six-sister battle group, had been ordered from the Indian Ocean to the Gulf to beef up the U.S. presence there.

Libya's Foreign Ministry issued a statement warning against foreign intervention, the official JANA news agency reported. "Foreign intervention on the part of imperialist powers is something which we utterly reject because the Arabs are capable of resolving their problems on their own," the Libyan statement said.

The Bush order also barred U.S. imports of Iraqi oil and other transactions with Baghdad, an administration official said on condition he not be identified.

In addition to Kuwaiti assets, the United States and France also froze Iraqi assets.

A source at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, said the alliance's political committee met Thursday. During the 90-minute meeting, the United States urged the allies "to begin a commercial

embargo, which would include an arms embargo, to freeze Iraqi assets and to take steps to prevent Iraq from taking Kuwaiti assets," said a source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

France, also one of Iraq's largest arms suppliers, said its deliveries had already been suspended because Iraq had fallen behind on payments.

The Swiss government instructed the nation's banks Thursday to increase vigilance over Kuwaiti assets to prevent their seizure by Iraq. A spokesman said the move amounted to a freeze on Kuwaiti assets.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department mounted a worldwide effort to persuade other governments to help isolate Iraq. And a U.S. official, asking not to be further identified, said Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly had warned Iraq's ambassador against attacking American citizens in Kuwait.

The move followed the 14-0 U.N. Security Council emergency session vote to condemn the attack. It demanded the unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi troops.

Britain unreservedly condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, calling it a grave threat to peace in the Gulf region, and Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave said: "The world cannot safely stand back and fail to seek the reversal of the annexation of a small state by a neighbouring large one."

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was to discuss the crisis with U.S. President George Bush

at a meeting in Colorado later Thursday, Waldegrave said.

Belgium, West Germany, and Norway all strongly condemned Iraq's military action, demanding immediate and unconditional withdrawal of troops from Kuwait.

In Japan, a foreign ministry statement described the invasion as "extremely regrettable." Stocks plummeted in Tokyo, the world's second largest oil importer. Japan depends on Mideast Gulf crude oil for about 70 per cent of its needs.

The Japanese government summoned Baghdad's ambassador to Tokyo, Rashid Al Rifai, and called for the immediate withdrawal of Iraqi troops.

"Japan has called for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait," Misaoji Sakamoto, chief cabinet secretary, told reporters in Tokyo.

He ruled out any major effect on oil supplies to Japan.

In Beijing, a foreign ministry statement said: "We appeal for an immediate end to military action and for a settlement of the dispute through peaceful negotiations."

The statement, referring to what it called reports of the intrusion of Iraqi troops into Kuwait, said: "The Chinese government is deeply concerned and worried over this."

China, one of five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, said both countries were its friends.

Asian diplomats in Beijing said the carefully-worded statement

fell short of a full condemnation of Iraq. Beijing would not want to take sides in the dispute because of its close ties to both countries, the diplomats said. China proclaimed its neutrality in the Gulf war between Iraq and Iraq but sold weapons to both sides.

Australia and Singapore bluntly condemned the invasion, which Baghdad said was to support revolutionaries who had overthrown the Kuwaiti government.

"Australia opposes and condemns any Iraqi violation of Kuwait's territorial integrity and calls on Iraq to withdraw its forces," said a spokesman for the department of foreign affairs and trade in Canberra.

"Iraq's action has serious implications for the stability and security of the Gulf region," he said.

In Singapore, the ministry of foreign affairs said in a statement: "This blatant disregard in the U.N. Charter and other fundamental principles of international law is a threat to the security of small states everywhere."

"Singapore calls for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of foreign forces from Kuwait," the statement said.

New Zealand Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer called on the United Nations to intervene to halt the fighting.

"I hope that the United Nations Security Council will rapidly intervene and bring hostilities to a halt," he said in a statement to Reuters.

Kuwait halts oil exports

NICOSIA (R) — Kuwait's vital oil exports came to a complete standstill Thursday after Iraqi troops invaded.

A Kuwaiti Petroleum Corporation (KPC) official told Reuters by telephone that all Kuwait's giant terminals were shut.

"All export facilities for both oil and oil products have been closed," said the KPC official, who declined to be named.

"I do not have any confirmation about crude oil production, but my feeling is that it is also affected," he added.

Almost 25 per cent of the world oil comes from the Gulf, including Saudi Arabia, the biggest exporter, as well as Iraq and Kuwait itself.

Just a day before the invasion, Kuwait started to cut its output by some 400,000 barrels per day to its new OPEC quota of 1.5 million in line with an OPEC agreement aimed at raising prices to \$21 a barrel.

The Kuwaiti official said that the crude export terminals of Sea Island, North Pier and South Pier which have a combined loading capacity of more than 1.5 million b/d were closed shortly after the invasion at dawn.

Loadings at Kuwait's major refineries of Ahmadi, Shuaiba and Mina Abdullah with a combined output of more than 700,000 b/d also stopped, he added.

The Kuwait headquarters of KPC which has a total workforce of more than 20,000, was deserted, according to a senior official contacted by telephone from Nicosia.

KPC has an extensive marketing and distribution network with more than 4,000 filling stations in Europe and elsewhere.

Value of Iraqi dinar picks up in Jordan

Trading in Kuwaiti dinar halted temporarily

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Iraqi dinar Thursday rose 17 per cent over its Wednesday value in financial dealings in Jordan as a result of the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait.

The Iraqi dinar, which traded at 170 Jordanian fils Wednesday, was trading at 210 fils Thursday noon and the value was still climbing.

Financial traders said they had stopped dealing in Kuwaiti dinars Thursday noting that the latest value, it posted was 2,350 fils.

According to sources, the Kuwaiti dinar will post a significant decline in its sale value if the situation between Iraq and Kuwait stays unsettled.

Informed sources told the Jordan Times that trading the Kuwaiti dinar was temporarily halted until the issues between Iraq and Kuwait become clear.

The sources added that every Jordanian financial institution had taken its own initiative in the prevailing circumstances.

Jordanian financial institutions did not receive any instructions from the central bank regarding the two currencies involved.

American concern mounts over rising reliance on oil imports

By Sam Burks

USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Congress and Bush administration officials have expressed growing concern over the rising U.S. dependence on imported oil, particularly oil from the politically volatile Gulf area.

"We are reaching import levels that many people regard as worrisome," U.S. Secretary of Energy James Watkins told a recent congressional hearing. "In 1989, our net imports represented 41 per cent of the oil we consumed, up from just 27 per cent in 1985. Most of our oil comes from neighbouring countries, but increasing amounts are from the Mideast."

Lower U.S. oil production and rapidly increasing domestic demand "virtually assure that even higher levels of import dependence will characterise the 1990s," Watkins predicted.

At a Senate subcommittee hearing July 27, Lloyd Bentsen,

chairman of the powerful Senate Finance Committee, pointed out that foreign energy imports have become "the single largest uncontrollable component" of the U.S. trade deficit. Last year, the cost of U.S. oil imports was \$49,000 million, or about 45 per cent of the nation's \$109,000-million trade deficit for 1989.

"Within 10 years," Senator Pete Domenici warned at the July 27 hearing, "we could be spending \$150,000 million to \$200,000 million a year for imported oil. That amount is greater than our total trade deficit today, raising serious questions about our ability ever to reduce the deficit."

The latest data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), an agency of the Department of Energy, indicates that net U.S. imports (gross imports minus exports) of petroleum in the first quarter of 1990 rose to 45 per cent of total domestic demand on an annualised average

basis. Net imports from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) over that same three-month period averaged almost 26.9 per cent of total consumption, and imports from OPEC's Arab members averaged 14.1 per cent of total demand, their highest level since 1980.

By way of comparison, net U.S. oil imports as a per cent of total demand in 1973 — the year the Arab oil embargo began — averaged only 34.8 per cent, rising to a historical high of 46.5 per cent in 1977. Imports from OPEC members averaged only 17.3 of total demand in 1973, soaring to a record high of 33.6 per cent four years later. Net imports from OPEC's Arab members averaged only 5.3 per cent of total demand in 1973, but they rose to an all-time high of 17.3 per cent in 1977.

Net imports generally are believed to reflect a more accurate picture of U.S. petroleum de-

pendence than gross imports. However, the American Petroleum Institute (API), a trade association representing some 250 U.S. producers, uses gross imports in its statistical reporting.

According to the API, total U.S. oil imports during the first half of 1990 rose to a record 49.9 per cent of domestic demand, the previous peak being 48.8 per cent set in the first six months of 1977. Since the first half of 1985, the API reported, total imports have risen by 3.7 million barrels per day, or nearly 80 per cent. In the month of June, alone, total imports averaged 9,001,000 barrels per day, or 52.3 per cent of all domestic petroleum deliveries, and imports from the Persian Gulf represented 24.7 per cent of total imports.

In contrast, U.S. domestic oil production averaged only 7.3 million barrels per day in the first six months of 1990, nearly 6 per cent lower than first-half production a

year ago. This was or 1.7 million barrels per day, or 20 per cent, below production in the first six months of 1985 and was the lowest level in 29 years, the API said.

Production in the lower 48 states (the United States less Alaska and Hawaii) fell nearly 6.3 per cent, or roughly 370,000 barrels a day, to an average of 5.5 million barrels per day during the first half of 1990. As industry and government analysts attribute the growing U.S. dependence on imported oil to a number of interrelated factors. Lower world prices since 1985 have had the simultaneous effect of discouraging domestic production and encouraging imports, they maintain. Also, more stringent U.S. environmental controls, heightened by increasing public concern over oil spills and air pollution, have made venture capital more scarce for independent drillers — who historically

have discovered most new domestic oil fields — and caused large oil companies to shelve their plans for new offshore exploration and development.

In a move to spur domestic production, President Bush has asked Congress to approve tax incentives that would permit independent producers to deduct from their income a larger portion of drilling costs; increase the net income limitation for the current oil depletion allowance; and provide temporary tax credits for certain exploratory drilling costs and for new projects in enhanced oil recovery.

According to administration officials, these incentives together could add an estimated 172,000 to 196,000 barrels of oil per day to domestic production and, based on an average price of \$18 a barrel, reduce the U.S. trade deficit by as much as \$1,100 million to \$1,300 million per year. Other legislation pending in Con-

gress call for stronger nationwide energy conservation measures, higher fuel efficiency standards for motor vehicles and renewed emphasis on the development of alternative fuels — such as compressed natural gas, liquefied coal, electricity, methanol and ethanol — to reduce U.S. reliance on imported oil.

While most long-term forecasts vary somewhat in their detailed analyses, they generally agree that U.S. dependence on imported oil is increasing. In its base case forecast for 1990, for example, the EIA sees net U.S. oil imports rising from 38 per cent of total domestic consumption in 1988 to 61 per cent in the year 2010; real economic growth (after adjustment for inflation) falling from an average of 4.4 per cent in 1988 to 2.4 per cent; world oil prices (in 1989 dollars) rising from \$15.27 per barrel to \$36.90; domestic oil production dropping from 8.14 million barrels a day to

7.81 million barrels; net imports increasing from 6.59 million barrels a day to 12.35 million, and domestic consumption rising from 17.28 million barrels a day in 1988 to 20.32 million by 2010.

Data Resources Incorporated (DRI), a private U.S. econometrics forecasting firm, also sees net oil imports rising to 61 per cent of domestic consumption by the year 2010, while another private firm, Wharton Econometric Forecasting Associates (WEFA), sees net imports rising to 72 per cent of domestic consumption over that same period.

Two U.S. trade associations that represent natural gas producers also forecast growing dependence on imported oil. The Gas Research Institute sees oil imports reaching 65 per cent of total domestic consumption over the next 20 years, while the American Gas Association projects an increase to 59 per cent of total demand.

Iraq — a reckonable force after Gulf war

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq, which invaded its tiny but oil-rich neighbor Kuwait on Thursday, only ended its eight-year war with neighboring Iran in 1988.

Population: 17.2 million. Arabic is the official language and spoken by an overwhelming majority of the population. There is a 15.5 per cent Kurdish minority in the northeast.

Religion: Predominantly Islam with Shi'ite Muslims forming a slight majority over the Sunnis who have traditionally ruled the country. There are Christian minorities of different denominations.

Area: 434,924 square kilometers bordered to the east by Iran, the south by Saudi Arabia, and the west by Jordan and Syria and to the north by Turkey. It was a short stretch of Gulf coast next to Kuwait in the southeast.

Capital: Baghdad, population around 4.65 million. Armed forces: army 995,000 men with more than 4,500 tanks. Airforce has 40,000 men with 500 combat aircraft. Navy, some 5,000 men with five frigates, 38 patrol and coastal craft and eight mine warfare vessels. Paramilitary forces consist of 4,800 border security troops.

Economy: Iraq's oil reserves of 112 billion barrels are second only to those of Saudi Arabia's and the country is dependent on oil exports for almost all its hard currency needs. GDP in 1985 was \$46.8 billion, having declined at about two per cent a year over the previous five years. Main industries are mining, oil, gas, construction, fishing, forestry and agriculture. Iraq had a trade surplus of \$1.6 billion in 1987. Its

total external debt in mid-1989 was estimated at around \$65 billion.

History: known to the ancient world as Mesopotamia. It later formed part of Turkey's Ottoman Empire until World War I when it came under British rule. Emir Faisal Ibn Hussein, a member of the Hashemites became king in 1921 and the country regained full independence from Britain in 1932.

A military coup toppled the monarchy in 1958, and set off a period of political instability. The leftwing nationalist regime of Brigadier Abdul Karim Qasim took over.

A second coup by the military's pan-Arab forces ousted Qasim five years later and the new leaders developed closer ties with Egypt. Martial law was lifted in 1965 and a civilian government inaugurated.

The Baath Party's coup in 1968 brought General Ahmed Hassan Al-Bakr to the presidency at the head of the newly formed Revolutionary Command Council. Saddam Hussein served as Al-Bakr's vice-president for 10 years before taking over as president in 1979.

Iraq's 1979 Islamic Revolution sent ripples of fear across the Gulf region, with Iraq particularly vulnerable because of its large Shi'ite population. The revolution dealt a heavy blow to the strength and discipline of the Iranian army and Iraq, determined to fight off the threat of Islamic fundamentalism from Tehran, attacked Iran in 1980 in response to Iranian provocations. The attacks started the Gulf war which became the Middle East's longest and bloodiest

armed conflict in modern times. Iraq was supplied with arms from the Soviet Union and funds by other Gulf states which feared Iran's dominance and its brand of radical Islam.

The war cost an estimated one million lives before a United Nations-sponsored ceasefire took effect in August 1988.

Since the ceasefire, the government has concentrated on broadening Iraq's industrial base to reduce its dependence on oil exports. The Kurdish provinces' long-running push for autonomy continued with sporadic rebellions during the Gulf war.

Gulf peace talks, which followed the ceasefire, have produced little result though both Iran and Iraq have recently announced a possible breakthrough following an exchange of letters between Saddam and Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in recent months.

Iraq's foreign relations have been characterised by squabbles with its neighbours, particularly Syria which is ruled by a rival Baath faction. Ties with Kuwait have been poisoned by a long-standing dispute over an oil-rich border area.

In the days before its invasion Iraq accused Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) of flooding the world oil market through overproduction thereby driving prices down.

Relations with the West have suffered because of Baghdad's political stands and efforts to boost its military power this year. The discovery of shipments bound for Iraq of what were claimed to be parts of an enormous gun led to a further worsening of relations with the West.



Saddam Hussein

Saddam — life filled with action

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's iron-fisted President Saddam Hussein, whose troops took over neighboring Kuwait on Thursday, is no stranger to his army into action.

Saddam was born on April 28, 1937, in Tikrit, north of Baghdad on the banks of the Tigris River. His father died nine months later and he was raised by an uncle.

He did not enter school until he was nine. At 18, he moved to Baghdad and was drawn into student politics.

He became a Baath Party member after joining an uprising against the government in 1956. In 1959, he took part in an attempt to assassinate then Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kassam.

The plot was uncovered and Saddam fled to Egypt and then Syria. In 1963 he returned to Baghdad when the Baath Party seized power in a coup.

Only nine months later Saddam was on the run again after the Baathists were toppled. He was caught and jailed, and released in 1966.

He helped plot the July 17 1968, coup that put the Baath Party back in power. Appointed deputy chairman of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), he swiftly emerged as the driving force of the regime.

In little more than a decade he rose to become president, prime minister, commander-in-chief, RCC chairman and Baath Party chief.

He showed he would not tolerate dissent shortly after becoming president in 1979 when 21 senior officials were executed by firing squad for conspiring against the state.

Saddam hastened a move towards friendship with conservative Arab states and closer economic ties with the West that first emerged after oil prices quadrupled in 1973-74.

Iraq also has a friendship and cooperation treaty with Moscow. Iraq, one of the world's biggest oil exporters until the Gulf war, embarked on ambitious economic development plans.

But Saddam's bid to establish Iraq as the major political and military power in the Gulf after the downfall of the shah of Iran led him into conflict with the new Islamic regime there.

The two countries were traditional rivals and previous long-running disputes were settled only by a treaty that Saddam signed with the shah in 1975.

Saddam felt the treaty was unfair to Iraq and that he had been forced to sign because Iranian-backed Kurdish rebels in north

Iraq had brought the government to the verge of collapse.

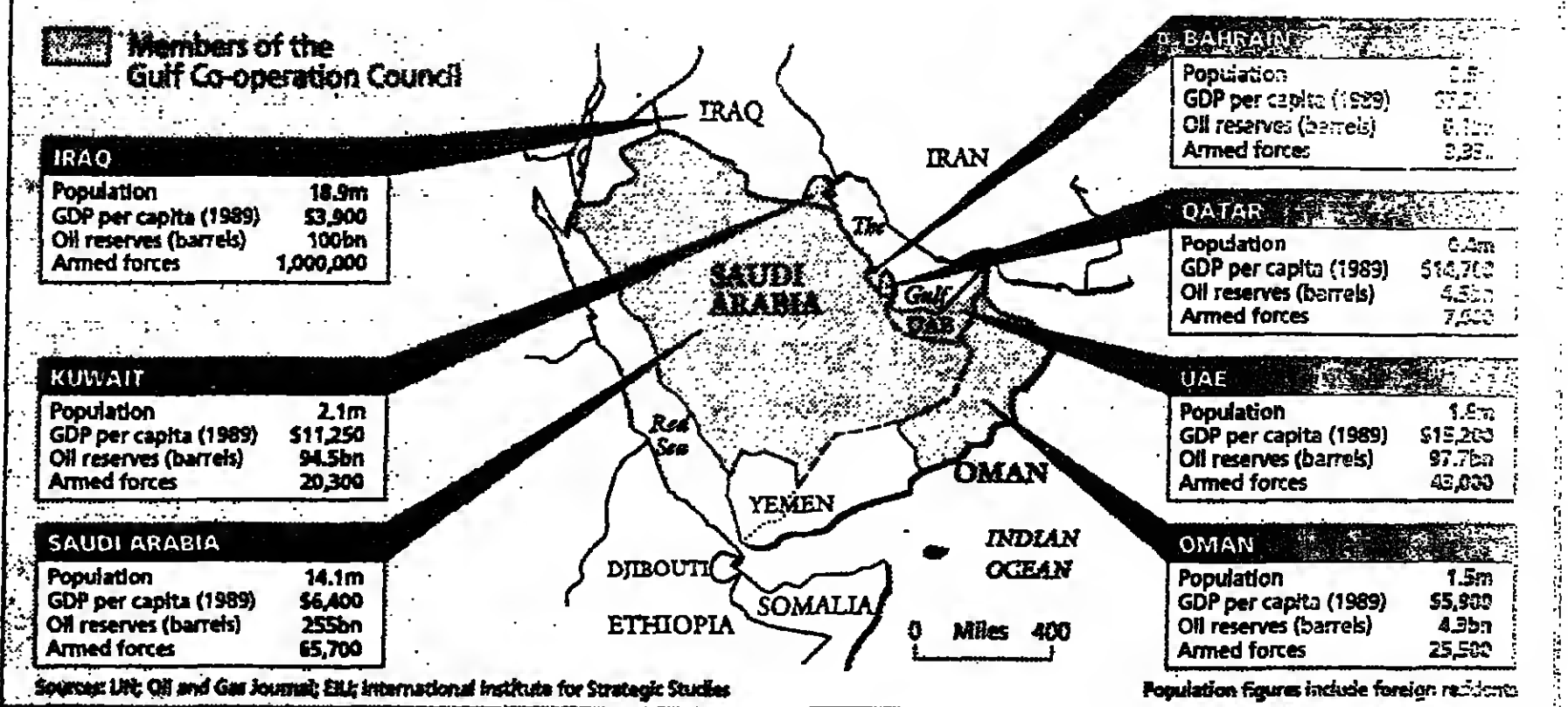
After a series of border incidents, Saddam abrogated the treaty and ordered troops to attack Iran, maintaining he had acted in response to intolerable Iranian aggression.

Most analysts saw the invasion as a pre-emptive strike against Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini exporting his Shi'ite fundamentalism across the border. Saddam, a Sunni Muslim, feared the Islamic revolution that toppled the shah in 1979 could also take root in predominantly Shi'ite Iraq, they said.

Saddam's iron nerve and skilled exploitation of widespread Arab and Western distaste for Iran's revolutionary regime has helped him hold on, especially when Iranian counter-attacks drove back Iraqi forces, diplomats say.

In the violent cauldron of Iraqi politics, he has had to surround himself with extraordinary security. A book published in 1983 by his brother and then intelligence chief, Barzan Tikriti, said he had survived seven assassination attempts in 15 years.

Hussein married his cousin, Sajida Tolfah, in 1963 and has five children.



Kuwaiti army no match for Iraq's military machine

LONDON (R) — Kuwait's armed forces, overrun by invading Iraqi troops on Thursday, are outnumbered 50-to-one by their powerful neighbour's one-million-strong military machine.

Despite its bruising eight-year war with neighbouring Iran, President Saddam Hussein's Iraq remains the dominant military power in the region.

Iraq can deploy an impressive range of tanks, planes, helicopters, missiles and rocket launchers, backed by a chemical weapons manufacturing capability, according to the latest survey of the world's military might by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).

Opposition Kurdish groups and international investigators say Iraq has used chemical weapons to deadly effect, although Baghdad denies this. Earlier this year Saddam threatened to use chemical shells against Israel if it invaded any Arab country.

Moreover, Britain has claimed Iraq was trying to build a huge "super-gun" capable of bombarding its regional enemies. It contends steel cylinders seized in several countries were destined to be parts of the weapon.

Iraq denies the allegation and says the cylinders were meant for a petrochemical plant.

Kuwait belongs to the Gulf

Cooperation Council (GCC), an alliance formed in 1981 to block any spillover of the Iran-Iraq war.

The six GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain — are linked by a mutual defence pact, but integration is hampered by lack of equipment standardisation.

Following is a summary of the forces and equipment of the states of the region according to the IISS:

Iraq — one million men under arms, 5,500 main battle tanks, 450 artillery pieces and multiple rocket launchers, 510 combat aircraft, 160 armed helicopters, five frigates and 36 Soviet-designed

scud missiles.

Kuwait — 20,300 men in its mainly British-equipped armed forces, 275 tanks, 90 artillery pieces and rocket launchers, 36 warplanes, 18 armed helicopters.

Saudi Arabia — 65,700 men, 550 tanks, 450 missile launchers and artillery pieces, 180 warplanes and nine missiles.

Iran — 600,000 men, 500 tanks, 900 artillery pieces and rocket launchers, 190 warplanes, 110 battle helicopters and 50 scud missiles, three destroyers and five frigates.

United Arab Emirates — 43,000 men, 131 main battle tanks, 76 light tanks, 155 artillery pieces and multiple rocket launchers, 60 warplanes and 19 armed helicopters.

Oman — 25,500 men, 59 main battle tanks, 36 light tanks, 75 artillery pieces and rocket launchers and 62 combat aircraft.

Qatar — 7,000 men, 24 main battle tanks, 14 artillery pieces, 13 combat aircraft and 16 armed helicopters.

Bahrain — 3,350 men, 54 tanks, 20 artillery pieces, 13 combat aircraft and 16 armed helicopters.

Foreign forces in the Gulf include those of the United States navy, a British naval patrol and visiting warships from France and other European nations.

Oil, dollar and gold soar

LONDON (AP) — Oil prices, the dollar and gold soared on the world financial markets after Iraq's take-over of Kuwait on Thursday, but then fell back when buyers decided they had overreacted.

Oil prices were nearly \$2 a barrel higher late Thursday after rising more than \$3 earlier in frenzied trading because of fears that the invasion would disrupt supplies.

Iraq and Kuwait are among the world's biggest oil producers and represent more than 20 per cent of OPEC's output.

The dollar jumped mostly against the Japanese yen, because the American currency is viewed as a safe haven and Japan imports 99 per cent of its oil.

Gold, also regarded as a safe investment during times of turmoil, finished in London with a gain of more than \$4, after having risen nearly \$14.

Stock prices fell on inflationary fears but oil-related shares benefited.

There was confusion in the financial markets following the Iraqi operation earlier Thursday, experts said.

"There are a lot of wild cards out there," said Peter Gignoux, manager of the international energy desk at Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc. in London.

Ted Arnold, a metals specialist at Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith Ltd. in London, said: "The market at this stage is very, very confused. No one is certain what is going to happen."

The spot price of North Sea Brent blend, the most widely traded international crude oil, stood at \$22.39 a barrel by late Thursday afternoon, up from Wednesday's London close of \$20.40.

"I would say that the market was pretty frenzied," Gignoux said.

The last time oil prices moved up this sharply was during the Iranian revolution in 1979, Gignoux said.

Trading on the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp spot oil market was disorderly, and one Rotterdam broker complained of difficulty in getting accurate price quotes.

In Tokyo, the dollar closed at 148.90 yen, up 2.25 yen from Wednesday's close and later in London, the dollar was quoted at a higher rate of 149.60 yen. Gold in London was quoted at a late spot bid price of \$378.75 bid per ounce, up from \$374.30 late Wednesday.

London's Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100-share index finished 34.5 points, or 1.5 per cent, lower at 2,304.5.

In light of Britain's decision to freeze all Kuwaiti assets, the London stock exchange late Thursday advised members to review all securities transactions entered into on behalf of the government of Kuwait or any person living in

Kuwait.

The stock exchange advised member firms not to undertake any further business on behalf of such investors and suggested that its members "explore the possibility of cancelling all such transactions entered into during the course of August 2."

The United States also froze Kuwaiti assets, as well as Iraqi assets in that country.

Retail price increases for gasoline and home heating oil may not be noticeable for four to eight weeks because current supplies on hand are adequate, said Edward Ryan, an oil trader with Dean Witter Reynolds Inc.

Oil producers already are facing a world glut of crude, partly due to high production by OPEC countries.

The International Energy Agency announced that emergency stocks held by the group's 21

member nations totalled 99 days of projected consumption, or about 160 days of net imports, their highest level since 1981.

Peter Nicol, 30 analyst with the London investment firm Warburg Securities, said he did not expect any actual disruption of oil supplies. He said prices could drift back down if there is not "major escalation of news."

But Nicol said the fear of disruption "is genuine and people are right to be concerned. It makes people focus again on the security of supplies."

Countries that depend on Kuwait and Iraqi oil could easily switch to other suppliers in a global market that is awash in oil — at least for now.

However, North Sea production currently is down to 1.9 million barrels a day, instead of the normal 2.3 million barrels a day, because fields are shut down

for routine summer maintenance. On Thursday, oil workers began a 24-hour wildcat strike to protest safety standards.

"The bigger issue here is will Iraq keep oil off the market to keep the price up? Iraq has quite a bit of muscle at the moment," Nicol said.

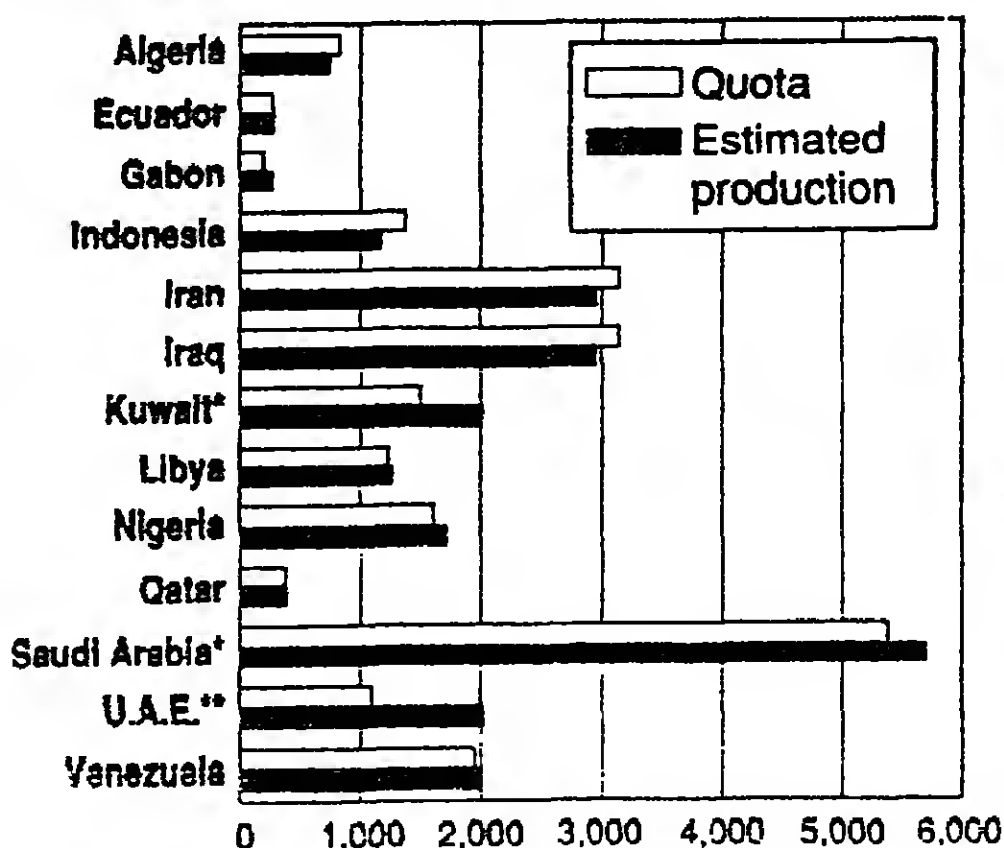
Under an OPEC agreement reached in Geneva last week, Iraq has a quota of 3.14 million barrels a day, and Kuwait of 1.5 million barrels a day under the group's overall production ceiling of 22.5 million barrels a day for the second half of the year. The 13-member group's oil reference price is \$21 a barrel.

OPEC currently is producing about 23 million barrels a day, Nicol said.

At the OPEC meeting, Iraq had pressed for a reference price of \$25 a barrel and for output curbs.

OPEC's quota gaps

Quotas and production estimates for the first five months of 1990 for members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, in thousands of barrels per day.



* Includes production from neutral zone shared by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

** United Arab Emirates had promised to abide by their quota.

Source: Energy Information Administration

U.S. may pump more oil

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Thursday gave President George Bush an extra month's authority to begin pumping oil from the nation's strategic petroleum reserve into the market should Iraq's invasion of Kuwait disrupt world oil supplies.

On a voice vote, the Senate passed a temporary extension of the Energy Policy Conservation act that established the 580-million-barrel rainy-day stockpile of unrefined crude oil in response to the 1973-74 Arab oil embargo.

Without the extension, Bush's authority to start pumping oil from the reserve would have expired Aug. 15, while Congress is on vacation.

The stockpile, located in salt caverns along the Louisiana-Texas coast, contains oil worth \$20 billion.

The administration and Congress have been bickering for the past 18 months over whether to increase the stockpile's size to one billion barrels. Bush opposes the increase.

Senate Energy Committee. That cushion has fallen from 110 days in the middle 1980s because of growing U.S. dependence on foreign crude.



A Liberian rebel fighter

Rebels plot against each other in advance on capital Assault on Doe fizzles out

MONROVIA (R) — A strong government counter-attack fizzled out in Liberia's secession conflict, as rebel groups struck back but plotted against each other for ultimate victory in the country's corpse-strewn capital city.

The United States appealed to other countries to stop arming the warring factions, which seem determined to fight to the finish despite their country's quickening slide into anarchy.

Terrified civilians covered in their homes or desperately tried to find other refugees as rival bands of fighters clashed in central and outer Monrovia.

The streets of the city were littered with the bodies of civilians killed in Tuesday's fierce fighting, and shop fronts gaped empty with nothing left for looters to take away.

"We cannot confirm who is in control of specific parts of the downtown areas," said U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher in Washington, who described the battle lines as indistinct and the military situation as fluid.

Although he said Liberian government troops could apparently move around quite freely, forces loyal to President Samuel Doe lost the momentum of an earlier counter-punch that broke the advance of rebel fighters to his seaside executive mansion.

Doe's men held onto the Defence Ministry and areas east of it leading to the president's headquarters, but the Finance Ministry, National Bank and telecommunications centre were controlled by Prince Yormie Johnson's breakaway rebel group.

But rival rebel commander Charles Taylor boasted that Johnson had fallen into a trap and would soon be crushed before Taylor's forces went on to end the decade-long rule of former army Master Sergeant Doe.

"I will finish this war in 10 days," Taylor told Reuters correspondent Gill Tudor in an interview at Fifteen Gate, a road junction 45 kilometres from the capital.

Taylor said he had deliberately allowed Johnson, a former army officer, into Monrovia so his forces would be bottled up against the president's men.

"We're going to destroy them (Johnson's forces) and then we're going to go on and get Doe," he said.

Taylor, whose National Patriotic Front of Liberia began the

attempt to overthrow Doe by invading from neighbouring Ivory Coast in December, scoffed at the size of his opponent's forces.

But Western reporters inspecting the capital found large squads of rebels from Johnson's independent Patriotic Front controlling the commanding heights of Crown Hill. In contrast to nervous and trigger-happy government troops, they seemed relaxed and keen to talk.

Taylor's nominee as defence minister, Tom Woewiyu, told reporters at the United Nations in New York that the United States was propping up Johnson, whom he called a deranged murderer, with a view to "either controlling or installing someone of their choice when the dust settles."

Asked about the allegation, a U.S. official repeated that Washington was not supporting any faction in the conflict in the West African state which was funded by freed black U.S. slaves.

The State Department, while calling for a halt to the movement of war material into Liberia, announced efforts to make emergency food available to refugees fleeing the conflict.

All the rebel forces accuse Doe of massive corruption, but they fell out among themselves over allegations by Taylor that Johnson summarily executed some of his own men.

The United Nations appears to be emphasising the need for action first by African countries to try to end the civil war in Liberia, despite a call by Liberian U.N. Representative William Bull for involvement by the world body.



Samuel Doe

Bull, who conferred with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Wednesday morning, did not say publicly what he wanted the United States to do. But a U.N. spokesman said he thought the Liberians had in mind "sort of a good offices mission by the secretary general."

Baker assures Mongolia of American support

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker the highest-level American to visit in 46 years, expressed support Thursday for recent democratic reforms in this long-time Soviet satellite nation.

"We are very heartened by the peaceful emergence of democracy in Mongolia," he told reporters as he sat down for talks with Mongolian President Punsalmaagiin Ochirbat. "We have expressed our desire to continue to support political and economic reforms in Mongolia."

He also signed an agreement to send peace corps volunteers to teach English.

Baker arrived from Irkutsk in the Soviet Union, where he and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze discussed a way to end the civil war in Afghanistan and a third U.S.-Soviet summit. But their talks were overshadowed in the final hours by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Baker told reporters on the air force jet from Irkutsk that he asked the Soviet to halt any arms shipments to Iraq that might be in the pipeline. He did not say how Shevardnadze replied, but described the foreign minister as "not pleased" by the invasion.

The secretary of state was expected to cut short his Mongolian visit, the first high-level visit by any U.S. administration official since 1944. He had planned to leave Ulan Bator, the capital, at midday Friday for two days of fishing and hunting in Mongolia's Gobi Desert.

Baker held successive meetings with Ochirbat, Prime Minister Sharavyn Gunjaadorg and Communist Party Chairman Gombojavyn Ochirbat. The two Ochirbats are not related.

He and Mongolian Foreign

Minister Gomposuren then signed a consular agreement and the peace corps agreement, which provides for as many as 15 volunteers to arrive each year. The first group is expected to arrive next year, with most teaching English.

The consular convention is a standard agreement setting out the rights of each other's consular officials to protect and assist their nationals living in the other country.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon and Mongolia's Deputy Foreign Minister, Olzoi, initiated a commercial agreement that contained an "understanding in principle" to exchange most-favoured nation trade status, a State Department news release said.

It said the agreement would not be formally signed until after further negotiations. The Mongolians have been eager to obtain MFN trade status, which would entitle their exports to the lowest

available tariffs. They also are seeking U.S. investment and loans to help develop their long-stagnant economy as they embark on a programme of free-market reforms.

Baker originally was scheduled to meet Friday with leaders of several new, non-communist parties that challenged the Communists Sunday in Mongolia's first free elections ever. It was not clear if the meeting would be moved up to Thursday.

The five opposition parties won a total of about 40 per cent of the seats in a key legislative body, and Communist Party Chairman Ochirbat has said his party will invite them to join the cabinet, ending the Communists' seven-decade monopoly on power.

Baker is the first high-level administration figure to visit Mongolia since 1944, when Vice President Henry Wallace came on his way from China to Irkutsk. At the time, the United States and Soviet Union, Mongolia's



James Baker

mentor, were World War II allies.

The onset of the cold war, however, halted most U.S.-Mongolian contacts. Diplomatic relations were established only in 1987.

The Mongolian-Soviet alliance began in 1921, when the Soviet Army helped a small band of Mongolian revolutionaries oust their Chinese overlords. Since then, Moscow has stationed troops in Mongolia and been its chief source of economic aid.

Moscow plans to pull all its troops out by 1992 and is cutting back on aid and investment. Mongolian officials say ties with the Soviet Union will always hold a special place in the foreign policy, if only because of geography, but that they want better relations with the United States and other Western countries.

They especially hope for Western trade, investment and technology.

U.S.-Mongolian trade totalled \$1.6 million in 1989. A U.S. textile company recently agreed to set up a joint venture in Mongolia to process camel hair, and a Texas-based company is searching for oil here.

Baker cuts short visit

ULAN BATOR (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Thursday he had been asked by President George Bush to cut short his visit to Mongolia and fly back to Washington Friday because of the crisis over the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, a U.S. official said.

The official said Baker made the announcement at a banquet given in his honour by Mongolian President Punsalmaagiin Ochirbat. He said he would leave on Friday afternoon after meeting opposition leaders and giving a news conference with Foreign Minister Tserenpiliin Gomposuren.

His flight to Washington via Japan and Alaska will take about 20 hours.

Baker told his Mongolian hosts: "I just talked with President Bush and although it really breaks my heart to say this I think I should return home."

He explained his speedy departure was because of the events in Kuwait. Baker was scheduled to stay until Sunday and take a hunting and fishing trip to the Gobi desert region.

"But maybe this (departure) will give me an excuse to return," said Baker.

Superpowers discuss regional conflicts

IRKUTSK, Soviet Union (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze discussed summits, regional conflicts and the peaceful uses of outer space on the first of two days of talks in Siberia.

Shevardnadze said Wednesday night the two sides had begun talking about Afghanistan and that there were prospects for initiatives to promote an end to the conflict there.

"We began the discussion, I'd like to note that this time there were no differences and contradictions," Shevardnadze told Soviet journalists at an Irkutsk hotel after hosting dinner for Baker.

The Soviet news agency TASS quoted him as saying there was a chance for "more dynamic actions in the region to promote a settlement."

Earlier, both U.S. and Soviet officials dampened speculation on the prospects of a breakthrough to end the 11-year conflict.

"We're closer together but we just aren't there yet," said a U.S. official. The main stumbling block is the role of Soviet-backed Afghan President Najibullah during a proposed interim period leading to elections.

Najibullah's sudden departure for the Soviet Union this week prompted speculation that a deal was afoot, but Shevardnadze said the Afghan leader was expected to return to Kabul after medical treatment and a holiday.

Shevardnadze said Soviet and U.S. officials thoroughly discussed the situation in the Asia-Pacific region, including the Korean Peninsula, and reached a better understanding of the region's problems.

He also said the two sides reached an understanding over preparations for a European summit.

Shevardnadze earlier confirmed that he wanted to discuss prospects for a third summit between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev before the end of this year.

Such a meeting would have to fit into an already crammed international diplomatic schedule that includes a probable summit of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in Paris in November.

The superpowers want to complete a treaty to slash their arsenals of long-range nuclear weapons by then and also to reach a pact on East-West conventional forces in Europe.

TASS said Shevardnadze and Baker covered a variety of other topics including protection of capital investments, avoidance of double taxation and settlement of financial and property claims.

It said there was discussion of the peaceful use of outer space, dealing with cooperation in exploration of the moon and Mars, and an international service to protect the earth by monitoring natural and artificial space objects.

Shevardnadze and Baker, who were meeting for the 11th time this year, took time off to go fishing on Lake Balkal, said to hold one-sixth of the world's fresh water.

TASS news agency later reported that both Baker and Shevardnadze had left Irkutsk at the end of their talks. Baker flew to Mongolia.

It also reported that both sides had signed a communique outlining the understandings reached

during their meeting.

The communique made no mention of the Soviet offer to halt production of rail-based missiles but said both had issued instructions to speed up work on the START treaty.

It said the talks had laid the basis for all questions on Germany to be settled at the "two plus four" meeting in Moscow and linked the success of the Paris summit to a successful conclusion of Vienna talks in conventional forces.

U.S. to cut forces

The Defence Department plans to cut American military forces by 500,000 from the current 2.1 million by the middle of the 1990s, the New York Times reported Thursday.

The paper said the Pentagon had drafted a blueprint for military strategy in the coming decade that assumed Moscow would need up to two years to mobilise for a major invasion once its forces withdrew from Eastern Europe.

The confidential plan, presented to President in late June by Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, would reduce overseas deployments and establish a new organisational framework for the military, the Times said.

It would mean a marked change from the assumption underlying American military strategy during the cold war: That the United States might have as little as two weeks to reinforce NATO forces if Moscow appeared to be preparing an attack on Western Europe, the paper said.

Manila to try DEA agents

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Murder charges have been filed by the Philippine constabulary against three U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents and 13 members of the Philippine National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and police who were involved in a cooperative, undercover anti-narcotics effort, State Department spokesman Richard Bouchers said.

"They were accused in the killing of a Philippine colonel and two aides suspected of selling heroin," he said, noting the U.S. agents had left the Philippines before the charges were filed.

The deputy spokesman emphasised that the DEA agents "were working at the request of the Philippine government" with the NBI "in an undercover capacity to stop illegal narcotics trafficking."

Boucher said, "There are no plans at this time" for the agents to return to the Philippines, noting that the United States does not have an extradition treaty with the Philippines.

Japanese freed

Communist rebels Thursday freed a Japanese aid worker held for 65 days on Negros Island, radio stations said. An American peace corps worker was also to be released later in the day.

Radio station DZXL, reporting from Negros, said Fumio Mizuno was brought by his rebel captors and handed over to a "freedom committee" which negotiated his release.

Trinidad denies deal to end revolt, says rebels to be tried

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) — Officials said Thursday they will press charges against 112 Muslim rebels who took Prime Minister Arthur N.R. Robinson and 54 others hostage in a failed attempt to topple the government.

Muslim rebel leader Yasin Abu Bakr and his followers surrendered and freed their remaining 46 hostages Wednesday, ending a crisis that began five days earlier with the armed seizure of parliament and the government's television station.

State radio said Leo des Vignes, a junior government minister who was taken hostage last Friday and released one day later, died of a heart attack Wednesday in a hospital. He had been shot in the heel.

Government officials said Wednesday they had not determined the number killed and wounded in the hostage-taking and subsequent widespread looting on the Caribbean island off the coast of Venezuela. They said at least two police officers were killed.

U.S. Ambassador Charles Gargano said he was told by the government that at least 20 people died and that bodies were left in the parliament building.

Despite rebel claims they had been granted amnesty, Deputy Prime Minister Winston Bookman emphatically denied that any deals were struck.

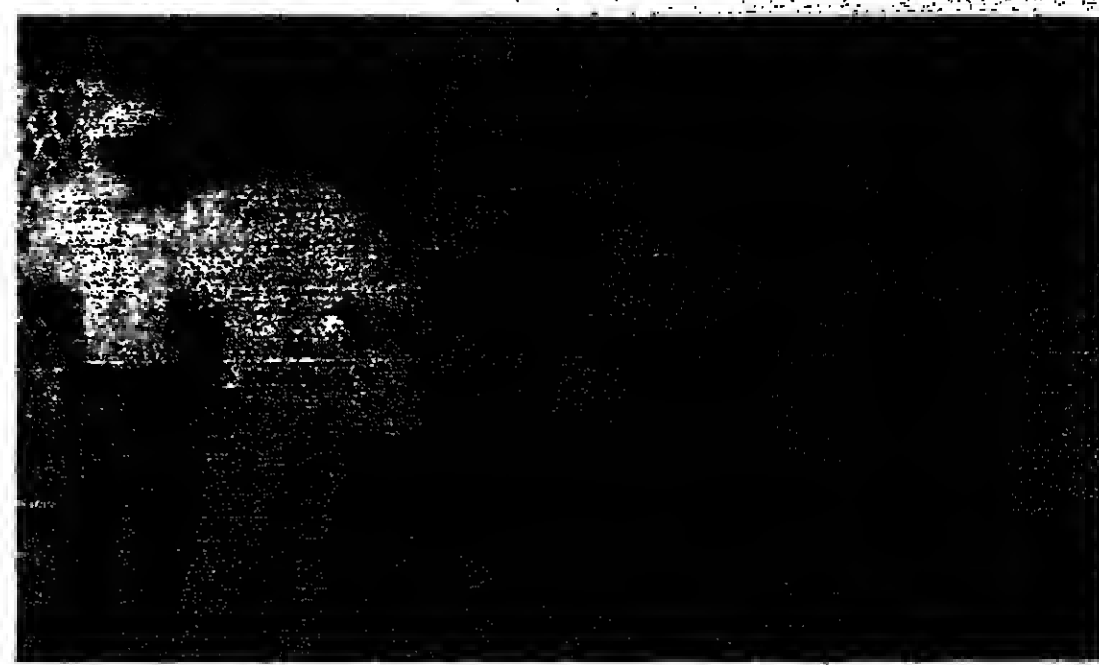
"We have made no deals with this extremist group," he told reporters at a news conference late Wednesday night.

He said "appropriate charges" would be brought against the rebels. Asked whether the charges would include murder and treason, Bookman said it would be up to the judicial authorities to decide.

Abu Bakr, a former policeman who converted to Islam and regards himself as a champion of the downtrodden, was under heavy guard, along with the other 111 rebels, at army headquarters in Chaguaramas in northwest Trinidad.

The freed hostages spent the night at Camp Ogden, another army base near the capital of Port-of-Spain, for medical exams and treatment.

Contrary to earlier claims that the prime minister had agreed to resign, Bookman said Robinson



Residents of Port-of-Spain crowd in front of shops prior to a curfew before a revolt ended late Wednesday

remained in charge of the government.

"Prime Minister Robinson is the prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago," Bookman said. "There is no intention to resign."

He said the rebels had "surrendered unconditionally."

Abu Bakr had demanded Robinson's ouster, accusing him of corruption and blaming him for widespread poverty in this once oil-rich nation of 1.3 million people.

The 63-year-old prime minister has freed Tuesday and hospitalised for treatment of a leg wound suffered in the takeover as well as exhaustion and glaucoma.

Defence chief Joe Theodore said Abu Bakr had agreed to surrender Tuesday night, four days after the siege began.

"I just think they were worn down," he said. "They just wanted out. They had come to the conclusion they had failed."

The attack set off a wave of looting. Hundreds of people took to the streets, ransacking stores and warehouses and carrying away everything from food to television sets.

Damage was estimated at \$50 million and food and medical shortages were beginning to set in. It was the worst violence here since a black power uprising in the early 1970s.

Bookman, the minister of plan-

ning who doubles as deputy prime minister, said a state of emergency, including an island-wide curfew, would remain in effect until the country gets back to normal.

Theodore said 112 rebels, including Abu Bakr, took part in the coup.

He said 46 hostages held at the parliament and the TV building 1.6 kilometres away were released Wednesday. The 29 captives at the TV station were all station employees. The remaining 17 hostages at the parliament building included seven cabinet ministers.

Witnesses said Abu Bakr emerged first when the rebels surrendered. Wearing a Fez, a white tunic and white trousers, he dropped his gun and put his hands behind his head.

After boarding an army bus, Abu Bakr shouted, "Allahu Akbar."

The parliament building was evacuated next. Several hostages held handkerchiefs to their faces, presumably because of the stench from dead bodies left behind.

A local reporter who spoke with the former hostages at Camp Ogden said they told him they had not eaten since Friday but were otherwise well. They were all undergoing medical exams in a tent.

Bakr's Jamaat Al Muslimeen

group was founded in 1984 and is believed to have 250 to 300 members.

Asked about reports that Robinson had been wired to explosives at one stage, Theodore said, "No, nothing like that."

He said, however, a vehicle had been wired to explode and left in front the parliament building.

The defence chief said the rebels had agreed to leave all their explosives and ammunition on the speaker's table in the parliament building. Soldiers were to go into the building Thursday to retrieve them.

Officials said the rebels were armed with AK-47 assault rifles, vintage World War II rifles, pump-action shotguns, pistols, grenades and other explosives. Abu Bakr released Bookman Saturday, saying he wanted the deputy prime minister to head a caretaker government that would hold new elections within 90 days.

Robinson won a landslide victory in 1986 and does not have to be called another election until 1991 under the constitution.

The attempted coup began Friday when armed rebels stormed the state television station and the parliament building, taking top government officials and other captives. They also burned down the police station.

Seoul approves visit of priests to North

SEOUL (R) — South Korea Thursday approved a visit to North Korea by a group of Roman Catholic priests and told other people they could apply to go there as well.

Unification Minister Hong Sung-Chul said any South Koreans, including dissidents, could travel to the North in the five days from Aug. 13 providing North Korea guaranteed their security and safe return.

"Even if North Korea selectively allow visitors, we will issue approvals for their visits in a bid to promote travel between the South and North," he told a news conference.

North Korea has virtually rejected Seoul's call for a free exchange of visits by imposing stringent conditions, but expressed willingness to invite dissidents.

The South Korean Catholic Priests' Association for Justice, which often criticises government policies, said Tuesday it was sending 15 priests to Pyongyang for a mass Aug. 15, Korean Independence Day, to promote unification of the Koreans.

North Korea, which fought a three-year war in the 1950s with

the South, allowed a priest to celebrate mass in a Pyongyang cathedral last year.

A priest and a 21-year-old woman student were jailed for five years earlier this year for visiting Pyongyang despite Seoul's ban on travel to the North, still technically at war with South Korea.

Hong, however, stood by Seoul's condition for a joint unification rally in Panmunjom on independence day that representatives from all walks of life should be allowed to take part.

North Korea wants the Chomunmyon dissident coalition to be the sole southern participants.

Hong said the border village of Panmunjom, the only crossing point between the two Koreas, is a symbol of unification and should not be used for political propaganda.

The crossing area in Panmunjom, a cluster of official buildings 40 kilometres north of Seoul, is a circle, 800 metres in diameter, under strict military control.

North Korea said Wednesday it would guarantee the safety of a

Chomunmyon delegation if it visited Pyongyang next week to prepare for the Panmunjom rally but reiterated that only Chomunmyon members were welcome.

"Chomunmyon members could go to North Korea during the five days in mid-August but we will not allow them to visit (Pyongyang) by themselves next week because this contradicts the purpose of the pan-national rally," Hong said.

South Korea would seek an agreement with the North for free inter-Korean travel when their prime ministers meet in September and October, Hong said.

The Seoul government has grown increasingly confident since President Roh Tae-Woo held talks last June in San Francisco with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Pyongyang relies heavily on the Soviet Union for arms and oil.

Pyongyang has castigated Moscow for seeking better relations with South Korea. A South Korean delegation is currently visiting Moscow for talks expected to lead eventually to full diplomatic relations.

Soviets report record harvest

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union's grain harvest this year could reach a record 260 million tonnes, senior Soviet agriculture official Vladimir Nikitin said Thursday.

"There are 300 million tonnes ripening in the fields," Nikitin said in a speech broadcast on Soviet television.

"Our losses... are normally 30 to 40 million tonnes, therefore we have a real possibility of achieving a harvest of 260 million tonnes."

The previous record Soviet harvest was 237 million tonnes in 1978. Last year's output was 211 million tonnes and the country had to use scarce hard currency reserves to import 38 million tonnes of cereals and soybeans.

Nikitin, head of the state commission on food and production, effectively the agriculture ministry, reported on the harvest to the government Thursday.